

in my home state that have worked to combat methamphetamine production and trafficking throughout our communities—particularly in rural areas.

For more than a year, I have been working to address the rising methamphetamine drug epidemic in Minnesota by having Minnesota designated as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, HIDTA. This designation will provide additional anti-meth resources to Minnesota and ensure better coordination of federal-state-local efforts at defeating this threat to public safety. I am pleased that the Fiscal Year 2001 Treasury-Legislative Branch Appropriations bill includes funding for new HIDTA designations, and a directive to the Office of National Drug Control Policy that Minnesota must be among the first states considered for HIDTA designation in the upcoming fiscal year.

My rural crime prevention agenda has included strong support for S. 3009, the "Rural Law Enforcement Assistance Act of 2000." The value of this legislation was brought to my attention by St. Cloud State University Professor John Campbell and several Minnesota police chiefs and sheriffs. I greatly appreciate having the benefit of their expertise. The Rural Law Enforcement Assistance Act would provide funding to the National Center for Rural Law Enforcement to expand the technical assistance and training available to rural law enforcement personnel. As a cosponsor of this bill, I am hopeful that rural Minnesota will soon establish a regional center that will bring the benefits of these programs to our state.

During National Crime Prevention Month, it is also important to note the impact the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, has had upon the rate of domestic abuse, stalking, and sexual assault across the nation. Since its enactment, the VAWA has provided thousands of communities with assistance to develop innovative and effective programs that have contributed toward protecting individuals from sexual offenses and domestic abuse.

In Minnesota, domestic violence shelters and centers have improved their services to victims of sexual, emotional, and physical abuse through such important programs as the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Enforcement Grant program and funding to combat violence against women on university campuses. Additionally, many domestic abuse victims have benefited from the counseling and guidance provided through the National Domestic Violence Hotline established under the Violence Against Women Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act and expect that this legislation will be passed before the 106th Congress adjourns.

Finally, I commend the dozens of Minnesota cities that are active participants in the "National Night Out" program. These neighborhood residents

have sent a strong message to criminals that our neighborhoods are organized and fighting back against the threat of crime. Similar to the TRIAD seniors crime prevention program, National Night Out encourages increased citizen interaction with law enforcement officers to prevent crime. I will continue to be a strong advocate in Congress for the National Night Out and TRIAD programs.

I am proud of the active involvement of our citizens in developing innovative crime prevention initiatives. Their commitment to ensuring safer streets and safer communities throughout our state has made Minnesota a better place to work and a better place to call home.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON THE FY 2001 ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. L. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I would like to share with my colleagues my views on several items contained within the energy and water conference report.

The FY 2001 Energy and Water Appropriations conference report includes \$24 billion in funding for the Department of Energy, civil projects of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, and a number of independent agencies. I understand the difficulty of reaching a consensus on such a comprehensive bill. I would like to thank the Managers of the legislation for all their hard work in reaching this consensus.

I am particularly pleased with the nearly \$4 million in funding included in the bill for a number of important Rhode Island coastal restoration and water development projects. The bill contains \$1.95 million in funding for authorized repairs to the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier. Since its construction in 1966, the barrier has provided critical flood protection to the City of Providence. The bill contains \$191,000 for Rhode Island Ecosystem Restoration to assist the Army Corps of Engineers and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to restore degraded salt marshes and freshwater wetlands, improve overall fish and wildlife habitats, and restore anadromous fisheries. The bill also contains \$54,000 for South Coast Erosion to complete feasibility study work on potential coastal protection projects along the southern coastline of Rhode Island.

Additionally, the bill contains \$584,000 in funding for the final Environmental Impact Statement and design work associated with maintenance dredging of the Providence River and Harbor federal navigation channel. The proposed maintenance dredging project involves the removal of approximately four million cubic yards of material from the Providence River and Harbor. The Environmental Impact Statement

process will allow for full and open debate on the placement of dredge spoils from the project. We certainly cannot overlook the importance of protecting and minimizing the impact on our environment, especially the impact on our fisheries.

As we move into the heating season, funding Environmental Impact Statements for Providence Harbor dredging projects cannot be overstated. Specifically, until dredging Providence Harbor is completed, deep draft vessels carrying precious heating oil to Rhode Island and other points in the Northeast will have to continue the dangerous and inefficient practice of off-loading their cargoes into small barges, in the middle of Narragansett Bay, for delivery to the pierside terminals in Providence Harbor. Anyone who has experienced the fury of winter wind, ice, and rough waters on the Narragansett recognizes this practice is an accident waiting to happen—one with disastrous consequences.

While I voted in support of the conference report last night, I was disappointed to find that the Missouri River provision I objected to during Senate consideration of the bill was not removed during conference. I firmly object to this provision which would block funding for consideration of one of the alternatives to the Missouri River Master Water Control Manual. The targeted alternative would require seasonal river flow changes along the Missouri River in order to recover three endangered species including the pallid sturgeon, interior least tern, and piping plover. During my past year in the Senate, I have voted to remove environmental riders such as this one from appropriations bills. In my view, the Missouri River provision inappropriately transfers the decision regarding endangered species protection along the Missouri River from the Army Corps of Engineers and the authorizing committees to the Senate and House Appropriations Committees.

I was one of two Republican Senators that voted in favor of an amendment offered by Senator DASCHLE and Senator BAUCUS to strike this provision during Senate consideration of the FY 2001 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill. When the vote failed, however, I voted in favor of the legislation because of its important funding for Rhode Island. The FY 2001 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, and the Missouri River provision contained within, passed overwhelmingly in the Senate by a vote of 93 to 1.

The legislation still has a probable Presidential veto. I am hopeful we will be able to revisit the Missouri River provision before the end of this session, and ensure its elimination from the legislation.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday,