high-quality broadcasting and information in the manner KELO has over the years. In fact, after several towers were lost, many dubbed KELOLAND to be the Bermuda triangle of television towers. To KELO’s credit, these setbacks never kept the station off the air, nor for long, as their engineers scrambled around the clock to get the station up and running again quickly.

Despite the fact that KELO does not serve any major metropolitan areas, it has always tried to take advantage of the most cutting-edge technologies that would allow them to offer the best local broadcasting to its viewers. Some of the station’s technological highlights include: In 1955, KELO broadcast the first live local news broadcasts from the second floor of the Hollywood Theater Building. In 1957, KELO aired a game between Sioux Falls Cathedral and Marty Mission—the first live broadcast of a sports competition in South Dakota. In 1968, KELOLAND TV was the first station in the area to air the local news and programming in color. In 1991, KELOLAND TV was the first local station to bring closed-captioning to the air, and many of our programs to the deaf and hearing-impaired community. In 1997, KELO installed the first local Doppler weather radar report that allowed residents to have the most up-to-date information on the rapidly developing storms and severe weather conditions for which South Dakota is famous. Finally, this year, KELOLAND brought digital programming to the area.

KELO’s commitment to its viewers has also been recognized nationally. In 2000, KELO’s commitment to public service was rewarded with an Emmy in the Public Service Announcement—Campaign category. In 1999, KELO earned the “Friend in Need” Service to America Award from The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) for its outstanding coverage of the devastating tornado that struck the town of Spencer, South Dakota. Not only did KELO provide award-winning coverage of this momentous tornado, the station also helped raise more than $1 million for the Spencer Tornado Relief Fund.

Most importantly, KELO has shown a sustained commitment to providing South Dakotans with the critical information they need about their communities. Whether it is news, weather or sports, local viewers have always been able to turn to KELO for accurate information.

I am proud to say that my staff and I currently enjoy a great working relationship with those who work at KELO. We know that we can always come to expect a fair and balanced approach to coverage of the issues and stories in which we are involved. Given KELO’s history of honest and intelligent reporting, its viewers expect nothing less.

SUPPORT FOR NATO ENLARGEMENT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, when NATO formed in 1949, the world had been liberated from the grips of Hitler and the Japanese. But, the rise of communism and the Soviet Union brought new threats and the fear of nuclear war. NATO was created with vision and vigor to combat, through political and military means, the spread of communism. NATO has succeeded. Today, the Soviets are gone, and a partnership between Russia and NATO is growing. Still, freedom-loving societies have been threatened anew by state and non-state supported terrorist looking to achieve their destructive aims through the spread of WMD. The question looms whether NATO will address these new threats or be pushed to the side because it was unable to transform when the cold war ended. Some have argued NATO’s mission ended when the Berlin Wall fell. Some have even said NATO is dead. Well, I do not think NATO is dead. Now is the time to recommit ourselves to NATO to ensure that the world’s greatest alliance is improved to remain strong for another 50 years. To do so, NATO must adapt its mission to deal with today’s threats. NATO must commit to a common defense with both policy and budgetary commitments that will provide interoperability and reduce the capabilities gap between the U.S. and other members. As NATO’s largest and most powerful member, the United States and her leaders in the Senate stand ready to strengthen NATO and repair recently strained relationships amongst members. We must do so, and we must take the first step by supporting NATO enlargement and the admission of seven new members: Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

NATO expansion makes strategic sense because expansion creates a united Europe. The addition of the seven aspirants creates a land bridge forming a contiguous alliance on the European Continent. Now, Western Europe from the Atlantic will be connected with its allies in Greece and Turkey on the Mediterranean and Black Sea. With the Partnership for Peace, NATO spreads across three continents. Bitter enemies just 13 years ago are now reliable allies.

NATO membership is a carrot to political and economic reform to all nations wishing to join the alliance. Again, just 13 years ago, the seven new members were under the darkness and weight of the Iron Curtain. Today, they are burgeoning democracies committed to market economics. To be in NATO, a democratic form of governance is needed. Spain, Greece, and Portugal undertook political reforms to gain NATO approval, and the same is true today for the seven countries currently seeking NATO admission.

The seven new members are ready to actively participate in a cohesive defense and participate to a robust NATO. In fact, they are already doing so. I would like to cite Romania as one example. Romania has undertaken major political and economic reforms. Romania overthrew Nicolae Ceausescu—a ruthless and oppressive totalitarian leader. Since being unshackled, Romania has celebrated its freedom. Romania has held four nationwide elections, and democracy is blossoming.

Today, Romania is also committed to the defense of the members of the NATO alliance, both in Europe and the U.S. Some have questioned what the seven new members can bring to the table to...