

of these military features and accept a detachable magazine. Pre-existing military-style semiautomatic weapons were not banned. This law is scheduled to sunset on September 13, 2004.

Last week the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence released a report entitled "Killing Machines: The Case for Banning Assault Weapons." This report explains why assault weapons are the guns of choice for criminals, and makes the case for renewing and strengthening the federal assault weapons ban. Also last week, the Consumer Federation of America announced its support for the reauthorization of the assault weapons ban. Former Senator Howard Metzenbaum and Sonia Wills, mother of bus driver Conrad Johnson, the last victim of the Washington, DC-area sniper attacks, were joined by CFA and 25 state consumer, gun safety, and public health advocates to announce the beginning of a year-long effort to renew and strengthen the federal assault weapons ban. I commend all of these individuals for their commitment to gun safety, and I look forward to working with them and other gun safety groups to reauthorize the assault weapons ban.

Earlier this year, Senator FEINSTEIN introduced the Assault Weapons Ban Reauthorization Act, which would reauthorize this important piece of gun safety legislation. I am a cosponsor of this bill because I believe it is critical that we keep these weapons off the streets and out of our communities. If the law is not reauthorized, the production of assault weapons in the U.S. can legally resume. Restarting production of these weapons will increase their number and availability, and I believe lead to a rise in gun crimes committed with assault weapons.

Although President Bush has indicated his support for renewing the ban, he has not yet taken action on its behalf. A spokesperson for House Majority Leader TOM DELAY recently said, "We have no intentions of bringing it up." I hope the President will take steps to urge the Congress to take up and reauthorize the bill.

AN AGROTERRORIST ATTACK—ARE WE PREPARED?

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the need for greater preparation to protect our agriculture from a terrorist attack.

After September 11, the President placed agriculture on the list of critical infrastructure that deserved to be protected from an agroterrorist attack. Since then, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, has moved to improve our preparedness to prevent and respond to an attack upon our agriculture. The President's February 2003 "National Strategy for the Physical Protection of Critical Infrastructures and Key Assets" also outlines a strategy for increasing our ability to react to an agroterrorist attack. Yet, we still have a long way to go in protecting our agriculture industry.

There has been a steady drumbeat of warnings about the vulnerability of our agriculture. Two major studies were recently released that concluded we should do more to guard our agriculture. The Council on Foreign Relations, CFR, published a report on our emergency response capability that said we lacked an effective response to an attack on our national food supply. The report recommended spending an additional \$2.1 billion over the next 5 years to improve our "animal/agricultural" emergency response.

On the heels of the CFR report, the Partnership for Public Service issued a study that examined whether the Federal Government has the necessary expertise to defend against a bioterrorist attack. In regards to agricultural security, it said that federal agencies responsible for safeguarding our agriculture and food supply from bio-weapons would face "crushing burdens" if our food and water supplies were contaminated.

These are just the most recent reports that recommend we need to do more to increase our guard. Last fall, the National Academy of Sciences published a major study on vulnerability of U.S. agriculture. The General Accounting Office, GAO, has issued three reports in the last year that looked at food processing security, foot and mouth disease, and mad cow disease. All suggested that we still have a way to go to prevent or prepare for an attack on our agriculture.

An attack on our agriculture could have serious consequences. Agricultural activity accounts for approximately 13 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product and nearly 17 percent of domestic employment. The United States is a top producer and exporter of agricultural goods, including beef, pork, poultry, wheat, corn and soybeans. Major agricultural States could be severely affected depending on the nature of the attack.

States with large cattle herds could be devastated by a deliberately set outbreak of foot and mouth disease. There were over 96 million cattle and calves in the United States valued at some \$70 billion in 2003. Texas has the largest number by far, 14 million animals, and could be particularly hard hit. In 2001, the cattle industry generated \$6.8 billion in income for Texas. The breeding herd of beef cows is particularly concentrated in Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas, with each State having more than a million head of beef cows.

Dairy States could also suffer. The United States has over nine million milk cows that produce almost \$25 billion in income. California and Wisconsin are the largest producers. Both have more than a million milk cows that yield close to \$8 billion in income. But a number of States—Idaho, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington each have more than

200,000 cows, contributing substantially to their economies.

Hog-raising States also could be vulnerable to the spread of foot-and-mouth disease, or to an outbreak of African swine fever. The United States had almost 60 million hogs and pigs valued at over \$4 billion dollars in 2002. Iowa has the largest industry with more than 15 million animals valued at over a billion dollars. North Carolina is next with some 9.6 million animals valued at a half a billion dollars. Ten additional States have substantial industries with more than a million animals: Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota.

States with large poultry industries are vulnerable to Exotic Newcastle Disease or avian influenza. In 2002, 14 States had flocks of over 15 million birds each: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Iowa alone has over 40 million birds valued at over \$64 million.

Crops, such as wheat, could also be a target. A purposeful spread of the Karnal bunt wheat fungus could have a strong adverse impact on U.S. exports. The United States is the world's leading exporter of wheat, accounting for almost one-third of world wheat exports valued at over \$3.5 billion in 2002. Since almost 80 countries do not allow Karnal infected wheat to be imported, a ban on U.S. exports could have a substantial effect on the U.S. economy. The Economic Research Service of the USDA estimated that the total cost of a reduction of exports from 2003 to 2007 could be over \$7 billion if there was such a ban. The top wheat-producing States—Kansas, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Washington—would be particularly hard hit.

I have been concerned about the vulnerability of our agriculture for quite some time. When I was a member of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, I was a supporter of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, APHIS. APHIS plays a critical role in guarding our borders and farms from agricultural pests and diseases, something that is of prime importance to Hawaii. As a Senator, I continue to be concerned about this problem. In the 107th Congress I introduced a bill to enhance agricultural biosecurity in the United States.

In this Congress, I have introduced two bills that will help address our shortcomings in agricultural security preparedness. The Agriculture Security Assistance Act, S. 427, and Agriculture Security Preparedness Act, S. 430, are designed to address the need for increasing coordination in confronting the threat to America's agriculture industry. The two bills provide for better funding and better-coordinated response to an incident of agroterrorism. The bills will also serve to increase our defenses against debilitating agroterrorism attacks.

The Agriculture Security Assistance Act is primarily aimed at assisting States and communities in responding to threats to the agriculture industry. The legislation will provide funds for communities and States to increase their ability to handle a crisis. It also will help animal health professionals to participate in community emergency planning activities to assist agriculturists in strengthening their defenses against a terrorist threat.

The Agriculture Security Preparedness Act will enable better interagency coordination thereby enhancing agriculture security. The legislation will establish senior level liaisons in Departments of Homeland Security, DHS, and Health and Human Services, HHS, to coordinate with USDA on agricultural disease emergency management and response. The bill requires DHS and USDA to work with the Department of Transportation to address the risks associated with transporting animals, plants, and people between and around farms.

Recently Mother Nature has provided warnings of the costs and dangers of a possible agroterrorist attack. In May, Canadians discovered that an 8-year-old cow that had been killed in January was infected with mad cow disease. The same disease affected cattle in Britain in the 1980s and 1990s leading to a slaughter of over 3.7 million animals.

Canada faced an enormous adverse economic impact due to the discovery of the mad cow disease. Canada's cattle industry generates \$7 billion in cattle sales and the industry remained paralyzed during the period immediately following the discovery of the disease. Major importers of Canada's beef, like the United States, Mexico, Japan and Australia, temporarily halted their imports causing almost \$8 million a day loss to the cattle industry. The news also affected companies like McDonald's, Wendy's, and Tyson Foods.

Canada acted to control the spread of the disease by quarantining herds of suspected cattle and slaughtering them to test for the presence of the disease. All the herds believed to have come in contact with the infected cow were quarantined and killed for medical examination. More than 2,700 Canadian cattle were slaughtered and eighteen farms were quarantined in the process of determining the disease's source and to control the spread of the disease.

In the United States, the southwest poultry industry has been beset by a costly outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease, END, since last fall. The outbreak was first detected in a backyard chicken flock in Los Angeles County in early October 2002. It then spread to Nevada, Arizona and Texas. Over the past months, some 25 countries including the European Union have put embargoes on chicken from affected areas. In Texas, where the poultry industry employs about 15,000 people and is ranked sixth in the Nation, the industry said it could lose about \$100 million as a result of the embargoes. In Cali-

fornia, State officials ordered the destruction of more than 3 million birds, enforcing a quarantine over a wide area. The outbreak in 2002 and 2003 cost the state almost \$100 million to control the spread of the disease.

We all know an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The Nation's capability to counter agroterrorism is increasing. But agriculture's central importance to our country suggests greater efforts are needed. As the recent cases of Mad Cow and Exotic Newcastle disease dramatically demonstrate, the consequences of a lack of preparedness could be quite high. Containing these naturally occurring diseases was costly and it involved extensive coordination. It could be much more difficult to counter a deliberate attack. The two bills I have introduced will help us to act now so that a future agroterrorist attack can be avoided, or dealt with rapidly before it can get out of hand. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE HARNEY LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL TEAM

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Rapid City Harney All-Star Little League softball team. The Rapid City Harney All-Stars, under coaches Rich Larsen and Rick Johnson, made it to the Central Regional Championship Game August 1, in Joplin, MO.

The Rapid City Harney All-Stars went through the Central Regional Tournament with wins over such teams as, Illinois with a final score of 10-5, and Kansas with a winning score of 18-0. They advanced to the championship game by defeating the Tallmadge Little League team from Tallmadge, OH with a winning score of 9-5.

These young people represented Rapid City and South Dakota in an extraordinary fashion. Their hard work is representative of South Dakota and has resulted in a great outcome. I would like to give credit to the coaches, parents, supporters and organizers and especially the hard work and dedication of these young players. I would like the community of Rapid City to recognize the hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship this team has shown on their way through the tournament. This is a well deserved victory and the team deserves to be acknowledged for their extraordinary achievement.

I want to recognize Manager Dave Johnson, Coach Rich Larsen, and Coach Rick Johnson for their guidance and support to help make this year's team so successful. I also want to congratulate all of this year's team members: Hailey Rae Brown, Nicole Tresch, Andrea Johnson, Kaitlyn Ringo, Camie Johnson, Stevie Wessel, Devin Jacob, Ashley Kiewel, Dawn Henderson, Allysa Nelson, Alysa Sack, and Ali

Larson for their hard work, dedication and commitment this thriving season.

Again, congratulations to the Rapid City Harney All-Stars on fighting their way to within one game of the World Series in Portland, OR.●

HONORING ROBERT DUXBURY

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to publicly commend Robert Duxbury of Wessington, SD, on his selection as one of South Dakota State University's Eminent Farmers for 2003.

The Eminent Farmer and Home-maker Program, which was honored nominees since 1927, seeks farmers who have not only made significant contributions to their community, State and Nation, but have also given unselfishly of their talent, time and leadership to public programs, educational institutions, and church.

Bob has earned the respect and admiration of all those who have had the opportunity to work with him. His love for South Dakota and passion for agriculture set him apart from other outstanding farmers in the State. Bob's friendly demeanor and wealth of knowledge have helped him develop close relationships in various agriculture groups, including the South Dakota 4-H Leaders Association and the State Fair Board. Bob has also served South Dakota in additional capacities: as a member in the South Dakota Legislature in both the Senate and House of Representatives; as a senior member of the Appropriations Committee for nearly 20 years; and as South Dakota secretary of agriculture from 1975 to 1978. Furthermore, after earning a degree from South Dakota State College, Bob used his extensive agriculture know-how to teach animal science and coach livestock-judging teams from 1956 to 1959.

Americans are the envy of the world because we enjoy the most affordable and the safest food, spending only 10 percent of our household income on groceries. Agricultural producers in the U.S. must cope with the unpredictability of the weather, markets, and government policy, yet time and time again they are the most productive and efficient in the entire world. Farming and ranching families provide immeasurable contributions to quality of life, economic development, and the culture of rural America. Farmers and ranchers are the backbone of South Dakota's economy and should be commended for what they do.

This prestigious honor is a reflection of Bob's extraordinary success as a farmer, as well as his commitment to conservation, and contributions to the community. I am proud to claim Bob as a good personal friend and former colleague in the South Dakota legislature. I am pleased that his agricultural leadership is being publicly recognized, and that his achievements will serve as a model for outstanding agricultural producers throughout the state to emulate. It is with great honor that I share