

Montana rates are 31 percent higher than more distant points going to the same market because of lack of competition.

Consider this example: A bushel of spring wheat sells for approximately \$4.10. More than \$1.00 of that amount, or up to one-third of the price a farmer receives, goes to pay for rail transportation.

Stated another way, the average wheat farmer is working for the railroads up to four months out of the year.

We need to establish a national rail policy that encourages competition that helps both producers and consumers alike.

I'm committed to doing all I can to promote competition and to help our Montana producers.

On Captive Rail Day, I urge my Senate colleagues to join together and work on legislation that will create a more fair and competitive freight rail system.

#### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about International Women's Day, which was yesterday, March 8. The theme this year is "women in decisionmaking." As I contemplated the meaning of this, I thought about how important it is for women to be involved in the decisionmaking about their own bodies.

And in this vein I would like to talk about the global gag rule.

When President Bush took office in 2001, he signed an Executive order known as the global gag rule. It denies U.S. funds to any overseas health clinic unless it agrees not to participate in any activities related to abortion services. Those activities include: providing legal abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or where the woman's life is endangered; and offering advice and information regarding the availability and benefits of abortion and providing referrals for abortion services.

The global gag rule denies U.S. funds even if the overseas health clinic is using its own privately raised funds for these services. What that means is that if you are a medical professional living in an impoverished country trying to help people and save their lives, you are gagged from even talking about certain reproductive health services. The gag rule places limits on women and doctors that we have deemed unacceptable here in the United States.

Last year, the Senate passed an amendment to the Foreign Affairs Authorization Act to reverse the President's policy and ensure that health care clinics for women and families receive this much needed funding. Unfortunately, this legislation has not been passed by the full Senate. The Foreign Operations Appropriations bill last year contained \$34 million for the United Nations Population Fund, UNPA, for this purpose. But in order to

ensure that this money goes toward funding health care clinics for women and families in poor countries, we must overturn this global gag rule.

In many poor countries around the world, nongovernmental organizations and medical professionals are working to make things better. They have set up clinics and reached out to the women and families in poor communities. They are doing great work. But their hands are tied, because the Bush administration has imposed a political ideology on the world.

Overturing the global gag rule is about safe access to health care for women. Hundreds of thousands of women are dying each year from complications from pregnancy. These women do not have access to the health care that they need, especially reproductive health care. I will continue to speak out about the importance of providing safe access to health care for women all over the globe until this dangerous policy is lifted.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### GORDON PARKS

• Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the great life and many artistic contributions of Kansas native Gordon Parks who died Tuesday at the age of 93.

Through his poetry, books, music and photography, Mr. Parks showed America a truth about its society and challenged all of us to make the country a better place.

Born in Fort Scott, KS, in 1912, Mr. Parks's family faced both poverty and discrimination. Yet in spite of these challenges—and inspired by these challenges—Mr. Parks rose to the heights of success through his largely self-taught artistic ability. He found his life experiences helped shape his art as he chronicled the African-American experience.

In 1937, Mr. Parks bought his first camera. By 1948, he was hired at Life Magazine. There, he earned his reputation as a humanitarian photojournalist capturing images of the civil rights movement and of the poverty in America and abroad. Through his photographs he reminded Americans of the harsh realities present in our culture.

In 1968, he directed the movie version of his childhood memoir, "The Learning Tree." His direction of "The Learning Tree" also marked the first time an African American directed a major Hollywood production. He won an Emmy for his documentary "Diary of a Harlem Family," and in 1971 directed the critically acclaimed movie "Shaft." He is also known for composing the musical score for "Martin," a ballet documenting the life of civil rights pioneer Martin Luther King, Jr. In 1970, he helped found Essence magazine.

Kansas is forever grateful for his talents. In 1986, he was named Kansan of

the Year. In 1999, Kansas City opened the Gordon Parks Elementary School. And most recently, in February, the University of Kansas's William Allen White Foundation honored Mr. Parks with its National Citation for journalistic merit.

Mr. Parks showed unrelenting spirit in his work. His civil rights contributions, as told through his art will go unmatched. Today, we proudly honor a remarkable artist and pioneer for all he did for Kansas and the Nation. •

#### TRIBUTE TO CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER GREGORY JOHN BAILEY

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I rise to honor and share with my colleagues the memory of a remarkable man, Officer Gregory "John" Bailey of the California Highway Patrol. Officer Bailey spent almost 10 years with the California Highway Patrol, serving the citizens of California. On February 25, 2006, while on motor patrol near the City of Hesperia, Officer Bailey was struck and killed by a driver suspected to be under the influence of a controlled substance.

Wearing a uniform came naturally to Officer Bailey after spending 8 years in the Army as a helicopter mechanic. Even after joining the California Highway Patrol, Officer Bailey chose to serve in the California National Guard, and just returned from a 14-month tour in Iraq last fall. Officer Bailey dutifully served the citizens and communities of the Inland Empire with great dedication and integrity. He combined his love of excitement and his passion for the uniform he wore to become a very successful motorcycle officer. Officer Bailey's colleagues in the California Highway Patrol and the National Guard shall always remember his upbeat attitude, ability to motivate others, and commitment to his job.

Officer Bailey was a devoted family man. He is survived by his wife Teresa, and children, Megan, Jared, Hannah and Dylan. When he was not on duty, Officer Bailey was a "true cowboy from head to toe," who enjoyed spending time with his family and listening to country music with his friends. Officer Gregory "John" Bailey served the State of California and the United States honorably and conscientiously, and fulfilled his oath as an officer of the law. Officer Bailey gave his life while protecting the safety of those he served. His contributions and dedication to law enforcement are greatly appreciated and will serve as his legacy.

Officer Gregory "John" Bailey gave his life doing what he loved to do—providing protection for the people he loved. We shall always be grateful for Officer Bailey's heroic service to the California Highway Patrol and the community that he so bravely served. •