

challenges, and we ought to capitalize on those areas where our interests intersect. We have a mutual interest, for instance, in assuring adequate oil supplies, preventing disruptions in oil and gas exporting states and in the sea lanes, promoting greater efficiency, developing and expanding clean sources of energy, coordinating build-up and release of strategic stockpiles to prevent price spikes during supply emergencies, and reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. The time is ripe for U.S. leadership on a serious and comprehensive energy and climate initiative in Asia that would ramp-up the development and deployment of efficiency-related technologies, establish an adequate research and development fund for carbon sequestration and related technologies, increase opportunities for U.S. businesses to capture a share of the region's burgeoning clean energy market, and create a forum to address supply security-related concerns.

We will not be able to fight global climate change effectively unless the United States is able to lead the world toward a post-Kyoto Protocol framework that includes binding limits on the large projected growth in greenhouse gas emissions from China, India, and other Asian countries. The Bush administration's prolonged refusal to confront the challenges of climate change at home has robbed the United States of its ability to lead effectively in such efforts abroad. We should use the opportunity of APEC to discuss a new, comprehensive energy initiative in Asia to address the twin challenges of energy security and climate change.

The U.S. also should work with its Asian partners to strengthen democracy. Nowhere is the need for building consensus more pressing than in Burma. Peaceful pro-democracy activists continue to put their lives on the line for freedom, and democratic nations should stand in solidarity with them. U.S. leadership is vital to any regional effort to press the military junta to achieve national reconciliation.

The U.S. must resume an active leadership role in Asia. We cannot sit on the sidelines. We have too much at stake in Asia, in terms of our prosperity, security, energy, and health. If we are to protect and advance these interests, America must be a reliable and engaged partner. It is good that President Bush is traveling to Sydney for APEC, and I know we all wish him success at this important summit. But the time has long since passed to pursue a new path that reflects the importance of Asia to our national interests and enables the United States to play a greater and appropriate leadership role in the region. We cannot afford any more missed opportunities.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COBB ENERGY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor in the RECORD the grand opening of the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre.

The Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre is the first major performing arts facility built in metro Atlanta in four decades and upon opening will immediately become the new home of the Atlanta Opera.

A great deal of planning has gone into the development of this state-of-the-art landmark on Atlanta's horizon by great friends and community leaders such as Earl Smith, Travis Duke, Johnny Gresham, Max Bacon, Bill Dunaway, Sam Olens, Robert Voyles, and Michele Swann. Special gratitude also goes to John Williams, a great benefactor and the namesake of this grand 2,750-seat theatre.

The arts are an essential ingredient for the quality of life of a community and the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre will improve the quality of life not just for the community of Cobb but for the entire metropolitan Atlanta region and the Southeastern United States.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure and it is a privilege to recognize on the floor of the Senate the grand opening of the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre. I congratulate the community on this wonderful new crown jewel.●

CONGRATULATING THE BRIDGEPORT PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I speak today to congratulate the Bridgeport Public School System, which for the second year in a row has been selected as a finalist for the Broad Prize for Urban Education. The \$1 million Broad Prize, the largest education prize given to school districts, is awarded each year to honor urban school districts that demonstrate the greatest overall performance and improvement in student achievement while reducing achievement gaps for poor and minority students.

That Bridgeport has been nominated for this award 2 years in a row speaks volumes about the progress Bridgeport has made educating its students. The city's schools serve the highest percentage of low-income students in Connecticut, with 95 percent of its students eligible for either free or reduced-price school lunches. Yet in 2006, Bridgeport students outperformed their peers in demographically similar districts in the State in reading and math at all grade levels. In fact, Bridgeport is the only one of those school districts to improve in reading and math at all grade levels from 2003 to 2006. This improvement was seen across all subgroups of students, including low-income, African-American and Hispanic students.

The city has also done a remarkable job in closing the achievement gap between White and minority students. Bridgeport has reduced achievement gaps between Hispanic students and their White peers in high school reading and math, as well as in elementary school reading, and the district has reduced achievement gaps for African-American students in high school math. In addition, Bridgeport has closed the Hispanic achievement gap faster than the State average in elementary and high school reading and high school math. This is no small feat, considering that almost 90 percent of the district's students are racial minorities.

The Broad Foundation has praised the district's willingness to take a hard look at the data it collects on student performance, and using it to identify where it is succeeding and where it needs to improve. In fact, Bridgeport uses this data to put together quarterly assessments that are tightly aligned to State standards. Data from these assessments is available in real time, allowing for immediate diagnostics and subsequent adjustments. Given the proliferation of data, administrators and teachers have become more comfortable using it and district administrators have reported that school principals have been using the data to determine their schools' needs and plans. Teachers have also reported that they too analyze the data when meeting together in teams to determine their strengths and weaknesses.

This results-based approach, where the main focus is on student performance, has so far been a rousing success. I would like to congratulate Superintendent John J. Ramos, Sr., and all the teachers, principals, administrators, and other school personnel of the Bridgeport public schools not just for the nomination, but for all the hard work they have done to provide a better education to their students. They have proven that it is possible to give all children a fair opportunity to receive a high-quality education. May other districts follow their example.●

SWEARING IN OF MAURICE DUBÉ

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I honor Maurice "Moe" Dubé whom I had the privilege to on August 14 welcome home to Maine and officially swear in as Maine's district director of the U.S. Small Business Administration, SBA. I was incredibly honored to be able to celebrate Moe's appointment with him and his family in Lewiston-Auburn, where both of our roots run so deep.

Moe's return to Maine is wonderful news for the numerous small businesses and manufacturers in our state who depend on the SBA and the valuable programs it administers. In my capacity as the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I have had the

privilege of working with Moe during his previous service with the SBA and know that his experience, expertise, and dedication will be a true asset for Maine's robust small business community.

Because our State so depends on small businesses and entrepreneurship for our economic livelihood, I have long believed that the district director position is one of Maine's most critical appointments. Indeed, according to the SBA, in 2005, Maine had an estimated 151,000 small businesses of which over 111,000 were led by self-employed entrepreneurs. Of the 40,000 Maine firms with employees, an overwhelming 97.5 percent were small businesses employing fewer than 500 employees. Clearly, Maine small businesses are the job creators and drivers of our economy, so it is critical to have a district director who will help our state make the most of the SBA's vital programs.

In his new capacity as district director, Moe will, among other things, be responsible for the administration of the SBA business loan portfolio; the oversight of the Maine Small Business Development Center Network; the coordination of Maine's SCORE chapters; and oversight of the Women's Business Center at Coastal Enterprises, Inc.

Although Moe will clearly have a lot on his plate as he takes the reins as district director, I am confident that his long experience at the SBA, which he joined in 1987, makes him eminently qualified. Moe began his SBA career as a liquidation loan officer in the SBA's Maine district office before moving to the business development division, where he was promoted to assistant district director for business development and later to deputy district director. His most recent assignment prior to relocating to Maine was as district director of the SBA's Massachusetts district office.

When Moe was with the Maine SBA, I and my staff had the pleasure of working hand-in-glove with him on a variety of issues on behalf of our State's small businesses. I can tell you firsthand that his comprehensive background, keen acumen, and tireless dedication will be outstanding assets for Maine's small business community. And perhaps most importantly, in an ideal "one-two punch" for our small businesses, Moe not only knows how to deliver SBA programs as effectively as possible—but Moe also knows Maine. I look forward to continuing to collaborate with Moe as he advances the SBA's agenda.

I know Moe will make a fine district director, and I am so pleased that a man of his talents has accepted this position, which is so vital to Maine's economy. I look forward to working with him closely to ensure that Maine small businesses will continue to thrive and create opportunities for all Mainers.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations, treaties, and withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of January 4, 2007, the Secretary of the Senate, on August 4, 2007, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2272. An act to invest in innovation through research and development, and to improve the competitiveness of the United States.

Under the authority of the order of January 4, 2007, the enrolled bill was signed on August 4, 2007, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

Under the authority of the order of January 4, 2007, the Secretary of the Senate, on August 5, 2007, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House had passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1927. An act to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to provide additional procedures for authorizing certain acquisitions of foreign intelligence information and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House had agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 43. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate, and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3311) to authorize additional funds for emergency repairs and reconstruction of the Interstate I-35 bridge located in Minneapolis, Minnesota, that collapsed on August 1, 2007, to waive the \$100,000,000 limitation on emergency relief funds for those emergency repairs and reconstruction, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message also announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1927. An act to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to provide additional procedures for authorizing certain acquisitions of foreign intelligence information and for other purposes.

H.R. 2863. An act to authorize the Coquille Indian Tribe of the State of Oregon to convey land and interests in land owned by the Tribe.

H.R. 2952. An act to authorize the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Indians of the State of Michigan to convey land and interests in land owned by the Tribe.

Under the authority of the order of January 4, 2007, the enrolled bill (S. 1927) was signed on August 5, 2007, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of January 4, 2007, the following enrolled bills, previously signed by the Speaker of the House, were signed on August 6, 2007, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD):

H.R. 2863. An act to authorize the Coquille Indian Tribe of the State of Oregon to convey land and interests in land owned by the Tribe.

H.R. 2952. An act to authorize the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Indians of the State of Michigan to convey land and interests in land owned by the Tribe.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of January 4, 2007, the Secretary of the Senate, on August 6, 2007, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 1260. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6301 Highway 58 in Harrison, Tennessee, as the "Claude Ramsey Post Office".

H.R. 1335. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 508 East Main Street in Seneca, South Carolina, as the "S/Sgt Lewis G. Watkins Post Office Building".

H.R. 1384. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 118 Minner Street in Bakersfield, California, as the "Buck Owens Post Office".

H.R. 1425. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4551 East 52nd Street in Odessa, Texas, as the "Staff Sergeant Marvin "Rex" Young Post Office Building".

H.R. 1434. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 896 Pittsburgh Street in Springdale, Pennsylvania, as the "Rachel Carson Post Office Building".

H.R. 1617. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 561 Kingsland Avenue in University City, Missouri, as the "Harriett F. Woods Post Office Building".

H.R. 1722. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 601 Banyan Trail in Boca Raton, Florida, as the "Leonard W. Herman Post Office".

H.R. 2025. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 11033 South State Street in Chicago, Illinois, as the "Willye B. White Post Office Building".