over $368 million, $40.1 million in cost savings, and the creation or retention of over 2,500 jobs—or nearly 5 percent of Maine’s manufacturing workforce. I commend Falcon for working with the Maine MEP to become a leaner, more efficient company that is poised for future success, and I am pleased to honor the company and its employees as it receives the Maine MEP’s 2011 Manufacturing Excellence Award.

Maine was once home to dozens of shoe factories and tanneries, which provided thousands of jobs and enormous benefits to the State’s economy. But over time, foreign competition and rising costs have devastated the shoe industry across America. That is what makes Falcon Performance Footwear’s story all the more remarkable. I thank everyone at Falcon for their hard work and endurance, and wish them continued success as they remain an icon in the Lewiston-Auburn communities.

REMEMBERING LARRY GERLACH
Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Larry Gerlach. Larry Gerlach was born October 6, 1946, in Britton, SD. In 1967, he married Susan O’Connor, and they made their home in Aberdeen. Larry quickly made himself known throughout the community for his love of the area and his resolve to see it grow and prosper.

Larry became a member of the Brown County Fair Board in the 1980s and served on the board for 6 years. He became the president in 1989, and in January 1992. Larry was named the Brown County Fair manager. His ambition and driven attitude helped develop the Brown County Fair into one of the largest fairs in the region. He was able to book some of the biggest names in country music to perform at the grandstand that is being named in his honor. His friends, family, and coworkers all remember him as having an upbeat and positive attitude, and he was regarded by all as a joy to be around.

Larry received many prestigious awards in his life, among them was the 1996 People’s Choice ABBY Award from the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he served as the president of the South Dakota Association of Fairs from 1997–2001, and in 2003, Larry was inducted into the South Dakota Fairman’s Hall of Fame.

Unfortunately, Larry passed away in February of 2011. Although we are saddened by this loss, Larry’s memory will be greatly missed by all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED
As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(Messages referred today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

TRANSMITTING CERTIFICATION THAT THE DEBT SUBJECT TO LIMIT IS WITHIN $100,000,000,000 OF THE LIMIT IN 31 U.S.C. 3101(b) AND THAT FURTHER BORROWING IS REQUIRED TO MEET EXISTING COMMITMENTS—PM 17

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 3101A(a)(1)(A) of title 31, United States Code, I hereby certify that the debt subject to limit is within $100,000,000,000 of the limit in 31 U.S.C. 3101(b) and that ‘further borrowing is required to meet existing commitments.’

Barack Obama.

The White House, August 2, 2011.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE
At 3:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2480. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Administrative Conference of the United States for fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014, and for other purposes. The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6913, and the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People’s Republic of China: Mr. Smith of New Jersey, Chairman.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED
At 1:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 365. An act to provide for budget control. The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. Inouye).

MEASURES REFERRED
The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2480. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Administrative Conference of the United States for fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS
The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2803. A communication from the Regulatory Analyst, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘Export Inspec- tion and Weighing Waiver for High Qual- ity Specialty Grain Transported in Con- tainers’ (RIN2055–AB18) received in the Of- fice of the President of the Senate on August 1, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2894. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Department of the Navy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC–2886. A communication from the senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administra- tion, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘Launch Safety: Lightning Criteria for Expendable Launch Vehicles’ (RIN2120–AJ84) (Docket No. FAA–2011–0181) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 29, 2011; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–2866. A communication from the Attor- ney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ‘Regulated Navigation Area; Chelsea Street Bridge Construction, Chelsea, MA’ (RIN1625–AA11) (Docket No. USCG–2011–