

those jobs will be lost forever. The cost of performing timber work in the future will become more and more cost prohibitive, consuming the Forest Service budget.

We must step up and help our forest communities with this problem by providing the timber industry new tools and piloting different tactics to address these red and gray forests, all while balancing the needs of conservation. We must do this while restoring these lands and setting aside other lands for future generations. I believe Senator TESTER's Forest Jobs and Recreation Act accomplishes this aim by designating 666,000 acres of wilderness for hunting, fishing, and hiking. This bill also puts another 375,000 acres into areas specifically for recreation so people can bike, ride, and snowmobile in more places. Additionally, this bill focuses on recovering our forests from the impacts of beetles and restoring these woods to prime habitat for fish, birds, and big game. All of this will create much-needed jobs, healthier forests, and more opportunities for outdoor recreation—and the economy it supports.

Decisions on how to use and protect our natural resources are never simple or clear cut. They require commitment and fortitude. They force conversations and compromise. They make us stronger by overcoming differences and looking toward the future. That is something the U.S. Senate could reflect upon. Senator TESTER's collaborative approach of listening to his constituents who came together and found solutions to the problems facing their communities is a positive example of people working together to achieve their common goals of bettering this landscape for future generations. We cannot wait. The dead and dying trees become more of a hazard each day and the ability of mills to make something from this decomposing product will not last. The more proactive we can be, the less this will cost us in the long run.

Senator TESTER's efforts and collaborative approach to address the beetle epidemic should be commended. This is why I am a cosponsor of S. 268, the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act, introduced by Senator TESTER.

#### EXPANDING DIVERSITY OF AMERICA'S AIRWAVES

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, the lack of diversity in our Nation's radio and television media ownership is a far cry from the reality in which we live. Multilingual and multicultural stations are critical to the fabric of communities all across this country, yet their access to the airwaves increasingly has been disappearing.

It is clearly in the best interest of our democracy that media ownership reflects the wealth of this Nation's diversity.

That is why today I pause to applaud Clear Channel and Minority Media and Telecommunications Council, MMTC,

and friends seeing their soldiers off to war. He thanked them for their service to our Nation, and he assured them all—the troops and their families—that they had the full support of our country's highest ranking military officer. It was a great comfort to the Guard, and they will not forget his expression of support. Neither will I.

I am pleased to say that one of these stations is in my home State of New Jersey. Through this program, "Radio Vision Cristiana," a minority broadcast company, has purchased WTOG, based in Newton, NJ, and will use the station to broadcast Hispanic religious programming.

Diversity in media ownership enhances diverse perspectives and better serves the community as a whole. It provides a window into communities, into languages, views, and values that might otherwise be totally suppressed without those outlets.

So I am pleased to acknowledge the partnership between Clear Channel and MMTC to furthering this goal, and I only hope that this deal will encourage others to donate stations so that the American airwaves can one day reflect the diverse makeup of the country's people.

#### TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL MICHAEL G. MULLEN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to ADM Michael Mullen, a man who served our country with distinction for 43 years.

During his tenure as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he has presided over the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the historic repeal of the don't ask, don't tell policy, the successful operation against Osama bin Laden, and an episode of unprecedented change in the Middle East. He has been tireless in his job, having visited our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan so many times that we have lost count. Moreover, his tenure as Chairman has been noteworthy for the amount of time he has spent with our troops on the front lines of war.

Before becoming Chairman, Admiral Mullen served as the Navy's Chief and Vice Chief of Naval Operations, as the Commander of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe, and as the Commander of the Allied Joint Force Command in Naples, Italy. Over the course of his career, Admiral Mullen has served aboard seven warships, three times as the commanding officer. In the U.S. Navy's history, he is only the third naval officer ever to be appointed to four different four-star assignments. He is also one of the few remaining veterans of the Vietnam War serving in the top ranks of our military.

When the Vermont National Guard's 1-86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team deployed to Afghanistan in 2010, Admiral Mullen traveled to Vermont to visit the troops at one of their departure ceremonies. On a cold January morning, joined by his wife Deborah, he spoke to a hall packed with families

and friends seeing their soldiers off to war. He thanked them for their service to our Nation, and he assured them all—the troops and their families—that they had the full support of our country's highest ranking military officer. It was a great comfort to the Guard, and they will not forget his expression of support. Neither will I.

In fact, Admiral Mullen and his wife, Deborah, have dedicated much of their time to advancing a range of initiatives to support troops and their families. These include wounded warrior care, veteran employment and education, survivor benefits, suicide prevention, and mental health. Again, these efforts speak to the type of man and leader Admiral Mullen is and to his commitment to our men and women in uniform.

I wish Mike and Deborah all the best. He departs the U.S. military with the sincere thanks of a grateful nation. I know that I have benefitted from his wise counsel over the years. America is fortunate to have such a leader.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### ANGEL IN ADOPTION

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I honor Theresa K. Reeves of Fort Smith, AR, as a 2011 Angel in Adoption. Theresa serves as executive director of Heart to Heart Pregnancy Support Center, an organization that provides services to assist women, men, and families facing unplanned pregnancies and dealing with pregnancy related concerns. In the past 7 years that Theresa has served as executive director, Heart to Heart has helped more than 14,000 individuals.

Theresa's strong advocacy for adoption makes her an ideal recipient of this recognition. Through working alongside birth mothers throughout the adoption process and speaking to local high schools, colleges, and community groups about the benefits of adoption, Theresa has facilitated more than 30 adoptions. In 2008, Theresa received accreditation as a life affirming specialist. In addition, she has completed the adoption liaison training from the National Council of Adoption.

I am proud of Theresa for her dedication to adoption services and for investing in the lives of families in the Arkansas River Valley. I commend her for her service and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her and the many other Angels in Adoption who continue to selflessly work to ensure that all children grow up in safe, healthy, and loving homes.●

##### REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE STEPHAN M. MINIKES

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the memory of Ambassador Stephan Minikes, and send my condolences to his wife Dede and their family. Born in Berlin, Germany, and