

No issue is more important to our relationship than aid to Israel. It is one of America's most cost-effective foreign policy investments. The economic and military aid that America provides Israel serves the interests of both countries by promoting peace, security, and trade. Israel recently initiated an agreement with the United States under which the United States will gradually reduce the amount of economic aid in the coming years while ensuring an adequate amount of military assistance. I commend Israel for this initiative, and I believe that the United States should stand by it.

The Middle East's unstable mixture of unconventional weaponry, advanced military technology, political instability, and radical fundamentalism threatens both Israel's security and America's vital interests in the region and around the world. I am committed to the expansion of the United States-Israel strategic cooperation that was formalized in 1983.

In addition, it is our national interest to help ensure that Israel maintains her qualitative military edge. Furthermore, the United States should not sell sophisticated weaponry that could erode that edge to nations hostile toward Israel. And, of course, the United States must do all it can to stop the development or acquisition of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons by rogue states such as Libya, Iraq and Iran.

True and lasting peace between Israel and her neighbors can be achieved only through direct negotiations between the parties. Nevertheless, the United States has played a critical role with Israel and her neighbors in helping bridge the differences between them. We must continue to invest the time and energy necessary to help continue this very complex series of negotiations.

Israel's capital of Jerusalem is important to Jews, Christian, and Muslims. I commend Israel for allowing all three faiths open access to worship at their holy places. Jerusalem is and ought to remain a united city under Israeli sovereignty.

Israel is the only country where the United States chooses not to locate our embassy in that country's capital city. I support the Jerusalem Embassy Act that recognizes the united city of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and mandates the moving of our embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Finally, I want to discuss Israel's special relationship with my home state of North Carolina. Since 1993, North Carolina and Israel have had one of the most comprehensive official exchange programs in the country. Both North Carolina and Israel have economies that depend on high technology, agriculture, and education. Both states benefit from their ongoing economic, social, and cultural exchanges. I look

forward to doing all I can to promote this valuable relationship between Israel and the great state of North Carolina.

Mr. President, I look forward to working with Israel's soon-to-be formed government to pursue our nations' many mutual interests. I wish Mr. Barak and his government the best as he pursues peace, security, and prosperity in the twenty-first century.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF HEARINGS

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, for the information of the Senate I would like to announce that S. 1273, the Federal Power Act Amendments of 1999; and S. 1284, the Electric Consumer Choice Act have been added to the hearing to be held before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on Tuesday, June 29 at 9:30 a.m. I would also like to announce that the hearing before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources previously scheduled for July 1, 1999 has been postponed until July 15, 1999 at 9:30 a.m. in SH-216 of the Hart Senate Office Building. The Committee will receive testimony on S. 161, the Power Marketing Administration Reform Act of 1999; S. 282, the Transition to Competition in the Electric Industry Act; S. 516, the Electric Utility Restructuring Empowerment and Competitiveness Act of 1999; S. 1047, the Comprehensive Electricity Competition Act; S. 1273, the Federal Power Act Amendments of 1999; and S. 1284, the Electric Consumer Choice Act. For additional information you may write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Mr. President, I also announce for the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the full Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place on Tuesday, July 27, 1999, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 1052, to implement further the Act (Public Law 94-241) approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes.

Those wishing to testify or who wish to submit written statements should contact the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Washington, D.C. For further information, please call James Beirne, Deputy Chief Counsel at (202) 224-2564, or Betty Nevitt, Staff Assistant at (202) 224-0765.

#### COSPONSORSHIP OF S. 680

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I am happy to announce that I have decided to cosponsor S. 680. This bill, which

was introduced by Senators HATCH and BAUCUS, makes the tax credit for research and development permanent so as to encourage investment by companies and external investors in research activities. It has been shown through studies conducted by the General Accounting Office and the Bureau of Labor Statistics that R&D tax credit stimulates domestic R&D spending by U.S. companies. This continued spending on R&D is very important for the U.S. economy as we head into the next century, and I believe this bill serves an important purpose in achieving this goal.

I look forward to cosponsoring this bill and gaining support for it in the days ahead.

#### THE MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION AND LOCAL AUTHORITY ACT OF 1999

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, on June 10, 1999 I joined as a co-sponsor of legislation introduced by my Midwestern colleagues, the Junior Senator from Ohio, Mr. VOINOVICH, and the Junior Senator from Indiana, Mr. BAYH, S. 872, The Municipal Solid Waste Interstate Transportation and Local Authority Act of 1999. I am pleased to be working with them on this very important issue. I know that they, as former Governors, are intimately aware of the concerns that the growing trash trade poses for the States we represent.

We in the Midwest, especially those of us fortunate enough to be from the Great Lakes States, enjoy a very high quality of life—beautiful scenery, small, neighborly towns, and spectacular natural resources. We hold it as a particular point of pride that we, in many instances, have the luxury of avoiding many environmental problems and we have structured our State and local governments in Wisconsin to try to be sure that we continue to avoid them. However, Mr. President, we in Wisconsin are unable to protect our communities, which have done a good regulatory job, from having to deal with the solid waste mess created by our neighboring communities in other States. Instead, my State has been forced to accept other States' municipal solid waste in ever increasing amounts.

We need to enact legislation to reempower States to be able to control the flow of waste into state-licensed landfills from out-of-state sources. This legislation would give States the tools to do just that. It gives states, like mine, the power to freeze solid waste imports at the 1993 levels. States that did not accept out of State waste in 1993 would be presumed to prohibit receipt of out-of-State waste until the affected unit of local government approves it. Facilities that already have a host community agreement or permit