

traditional impacts of oil drilling and exploration. The technological improvements within the oil industry make it possible for the oil companies to use a slant drilling technique to harvest the oil in a manner that may not impact the ecosystem to the degree traditional techniques would. But drilling and exploration in this gentle Arctic wilderness at this time could have a lasting impact that would forever damage the environment of this region.

I applaud the Senator from Delaware's commitment to permanent protection for this unique linkage of ecosystems upon which the local communities depend, and the American community as a whole should value as a national and natural treasure.

#### U.S. COMMERCE DEPARTMENT'S NEW INTERNET PATENT AND TRADEMARKS DATABASE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to commend Commerce Secretary William Daley, acting Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Q. Todd Dickinson, and the U.S. Department of Commerce for their hard work and dedication in establishing the new Patent and Trademark Office Internet database. This online database truly reinvents how the government does business and how business innovation can flourish with government's help. This database will help erode some of the traditional barriers that have hindered business innovation in small, rural states like Vermont.

As an avid Internet user, I have long advocated a transition to an online database for trademarks and patents. The prior painstaking process of searching existing patents and trademarks was a time-consuming frustration for inventors. Last Congress I co-authored an amendment to the Omnibus Patent Act of 1997, which would have required the creation of computer networks to provide electronic access to patent information. I am proud that the database unveiled today achieves the goal of universal electronic access to trademarks and patents.

This new system of instant on-line access to the entire patent application—including the drawings—will greatly promote innovation and technology by showing researchers what the current science is. With this new database, there are now more than two million complete patents on-line dating back to 1976 and 1 million trademarks dating back to 1870.

This patent and trademark database could not have come at a better time. In the last 2 years, patent applications have increased by 25 percent and trademark applications have increased by 16 percent. In 1998, the Patent and Trademark Office received over a quarter of a million applications for patents alone, and they issued more than 150,000 patents.

Advancements in medicine, information technology, pharmaceuticals, transportation, environmental protection, manufacturing, agriculture, entertainment and countless other areas of science depend on patents. New investments build on existing science, and existing science will now be available to anyone with Internet access—whether they live in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont or Nome, Alaska or Silicon Valley, California.

This free Internet access changes the dynamic for American independent inventors and for corporate giants. Citizens who simply want to learn more by browsing the Web, students doing school projects, independent inventors and corporate research departments now can search this vast database. I have supported this development for several years and am delighted that it is fully up and running.

#### TRIBUTE TO STATE DIRECTOR BILL LAMB UPON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Bill Lamb upon his retirement for his thirty-six years of dedicated service with the Bureau of Land Management. Mr. Lamb retired on April 2, 1999 after four successful years as BLM's State Director in Utah.

As native Utahn, Bill Lamb began to work for the BLM in 1963 at the age of 22. A graduate of Utah State University, he served in a number of positions varying from a range conservationist, Director of the Arizona Strip to a budget official here in Washington. For the last four years Bill has served as the Utah State BLM Director. I know that I speak for all of the members of the Utah delegation when I say that it has been a privilege to work with him.

I have watched Bill perform with grace under pressure, always dealing with the contentious land management issues in Utah with an even-hand and a listening ear. His well-deserved reputation for always being honest and candid helped sooth over the hard feelings and frayed nerves brought on by the creation of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. He was instrumental in the successful completion of the historic Utah Schools and Lands Exchange Act of 1998 which traded State Trust lands locked up in the Grand Staircase for other federal lands in Utah.

Bill worked to preserve important wildlife habitat and at the same time, increased public participation through the creation of the Washington County Desert Tortoise Habitat Conservation Plan and the reestablishment of the citizens' advisory board. He always strived to maintain a balance between conservation and utilization and in the process earned a reputation for being one of the most able and affable leaders within BLM. I will miss his valuable advice and perspective tremendously.

Secretary Babbitt said: "Bill Lamb has done a remarkable job in one of the most demanding positions in the BLM." I could not agree more. I thank Bill for his service that was at many times thankless. He will be sorely missed. I wish him great success in his future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES B. McMILLAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to day to pay tribute to James B. McMillan, pioneer and leader of the civil rights movement in Nevada. James McMillan was a longtime Las Vegas dentist whose name was often associated with the local civil rights movement as well as the desegregation of Las Vegas casinos.

Dr. McMillan has been widely praised for his role in bringing down the color barriers in Las Vegas. He began his exemplary career in Detroit and then moved to Las Vegas where he became the first practicing black dentist. His pioneering initiatives were displayed through such efforts as helping to form the Human Rights Commission and his 1964 Senate run as the first black from Nevada to run for the U.S. Senate. Additionally, in 1971, McMillan became the first black to be appointed to the Nevada Board of Dental Examiners.

When McMillan first arrived in Las Vegas the town was dubbed the "Mississippi of the West" and blacks were generally not allowed in hotel-casinos. While serving in the Korean war, McMillan opened his home to house black entertainers. At the time, black entertainers were rapidly escorted in and out of hotels and were not allowed to fraternize with hotel guests but only to perform in the show rooms. However, desegregation began shortly before McMillan first came to Las Vegas in 1955 with the opening of the Moulin Rouge, the first integrated hotel-casino. Throughout his career McMillan worked to further the accessibility to hotel-casinos for blacks.

McMillan first felt the call to participate in the civil rights movement amid a turbulent atmosphere in 1959 at a NAACP Freedom Front Dinner. The speaker was NAACP Field Secretary Tarea Hall Pittman whose subject was "Las Vegas, now is the time." Despite death threats, McMillan began organizing for a local peace march on the Strip which turned the tide in the struggle for integration. From this point on, McMillan devoted his life to provide and expand opportunities for blacks. He began to register black voters and recruit black teachers for local schools. At age 74 he was elected to the Clark County School Board. Eventually a school in northwest Las Vegas, The James B. McMillan Elementary School, was named in his honor.

Last year, McMillan published his autobiography, "Fighting Back—A Life in the Struggle for Civil Rights."