

and are obtaining immeasurable possibilities for the future.

I ask unanimous consent that this bipartisan letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, May 14, 1999.

President WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to encourage you to finalize bilateral negotiations over Chinese accession to the WTO. For our part, upon conclusion of a market access agreement that clearly advances our economic interests in China, we are committed to granting China permanent Normal Trade Relations status.

Despite the events of this week in Belgrade and China, it is critical that we focus on what is important to America's national interest. Incorporating China into the global trade community through WTO membership; encouraging China to follow internationally accepted trade rules; opening Chinese markets to our manufactured goods, agricultural products, and services; and helping to anchor the economic reform process underway in China, all serve our national interest. The recent events in Belgrade and Beijing are reason neither to weaken those commitments made during Premier Zhu Rongji's visit last month nor to delay conclusion of the accession process.

We look forward to working with you to ensure an early conclusion of these negotiations and China's accession to the WTO.

Sincerely,

Max Baucus, John H. Chafee, Jay Rockefeller, Don Nickles, John Breaux, Chuck Grassley, Dianne Feinstein, Ted Stevens, Tom Daschle, Frank Murkowski, Mitch McConnell, Larry Craig, Orrin Hatch, Conrad Burns, Chuck Hagel, Daniel Inouye, Patty Murray, Harry Reid, Sam Brownback, Bob Kerrey, Pat Roberts, Rod Grams, Daniel K. Akaka, George Voinovich, Ron Wyden, Jeff Bingaman, Richard H. Bryan, Gordon Smith, Slade Gorton, Craig Thomas.

RACE FOR THE CURE

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a very important event.

All over the country, women and men alike are preparing for the "Race for the Cure," a 5-kilometer foot race to raise money in the fight against breast cancer. Each year, the number of participants in the race has grown. Sixteen years after its inception, the Race for the Cure has become the largest 5-K in the world.

I believe this race is widely attended because breast cancer has affected so many people. One in 9 women and approximately 12,000 men are diagnosed with breast cancer every year. So, in some way, everyone—every man, woman, and child is affected by this disease. The Race for the Cure is important because it brings awareness to this disease that is so prevalent today.

This cause and this race are important to me for many reasons. There are

several women who are very important to me who are survivors of this terrible disease. I have learned so much from these women; I have seen their courage and, believe me, I want to underscore that point—very courageous. I have seen their willingness to fight. Through them, I have learned more about the value of life.

We often take for granted the gifts that we have been given. We catch ourselves thinking about what will happen in an hour, or in a couple of days, and we forget to live for right now. The precious time that we have with our loved ones is invaluable. We take too little time with them. Through their struggles to fight breast cancer, these women have shown me the importance of a life lived well. And for that, I thank each of them.

This race is being held in over 95 cities in the United States over the next few weeks. I am proud to say that this weekend, on May 15, the Race for the Cure will be held in Helena, MT, my State's capital. Approximately 3,000 runners will participate. More important, over 300 breast cancer survivors will participate this weekend in the race for life.

Seventy-five percent of the race proceeds are used to provide mammography vouchers and grants for follow-up diagnostic tests for more than 600 women in Montana. Thirty-two health care facilities in my State participate in this program.

I extend my special thanks to the Montana Race organizers Connie Malcom and Bobbie Pomroy and the hundreds of volunteers working together to make this important event occur. Women like Jan Paulsen, a seven-year survivor who will represent my State at the National Race for the Cure here in Washington, DC, on June 5.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this important event and good luck to all!

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Y2K ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, as the Senate prepares for a Tuesday cloture vote on the Y2K litigation reform legislation, I want to spend just a few minutes this afternoon trying to describe where I believe we are in the course of the Senate debate and all the bipartisan progress that has been made in the last few weeks on this issue. I especially emphasize the bipartisan focus

that has been taking place in the Senate.

The House had a vote, as the Presiding Officer knows, this week. Regrettably, it was pretty much along partisan lines. There is certainly nothing partisan about this issue. If we have chaos early in the next century as a result of Y2K frivolous lawsuits, folks are not going to be sitting around asking whether Democrats or Republicans caused it. They are going to be saying: What was the problem? Why didn't the Congress deal with it?

Fortunately, the Senate, unlike the House, has been working in a bipartisan way to deal with this. On the Republican side, Chairman MCCAIN and Chairman HATCH, Senator GORTON, Senator BENNETT, and a variety of Senators have worked with me and Senator DODD, who is the Democratic leader on this issue and has done such a good job on the Y2K committee. And Senator FEINSTEIN has made enormous contributions. She represents California, of course, a State that has a great interest in technology issues.

The most important thing, as the Senate goes to the important Y2K debate next week, is for all of us to recognize that we have taken a completely different approach from that of the House of Representatives. There was no evidence of bipartisanship in the House last week. That has not been the case in the Senate.

I also want to make it clear, both Senate Democrats and Republicans are interested in working with the White House on this legislation. For the White House to veto a responsible Y2K bill would be like throwing a monkey wrench into the technology engine that is driving this Nation's economic prosperity.

I cannot believe the White House would want to do that. I know there are many in the White House who have ideas and suggestions and are talking to Senators of both parties. We are anxious to hear from them, because the Senate is going to move next week to this debate and now is the time for them to come forward with their practical suggestions.

As the Presiding Officer knows, this is a topic that cannot wait. There are a variety of issues before the Senate where the immediacy may not be all that crucial. This is an issue that cannot wait, because if we do not deal with it now, I personally believe what will happen is, early in the next century we really will have chaos as a result of this Y2K situation. The Senate could find itself back in a special session at that time having to deal with it. It is much better to do it now and to do it in a bipartisan way.

I want to spend a few minutes talking about how this effort to make this issue bipartisan and ensure that it is fair to both consumers and business has evolved over the last few weeks.