

P.S.: I have included a copy of my floor statement for your review.

AMERICAN MEAT INSTITUTE MEMBERS

Bar-S Foods Co.  
 Birchwood Foods—Division of Kenosha Beef Int'l.  
 Burke Corporation  
 Coleman Natural Products, Inc.  
 DeAns Pork Products  
 Devault Foods  
 Diamond Stainless  
 Evans Food Products Company  
 Fresh Mark, Inc.  
 E.W. Knass & Sons, Inc.  
 F. Wardynski & Sons, Inc.  
 Farmlands Foods, Inc.  
 Foodbrands America, Inc.  
 Fred Usinger, Inc.  
 Julian Freirich Company  
 Greater Omaha Packing Co., Inc.  
 Harrington's in Vermont, Inc.  
 Hormel Foods Corporation  
 Huisken Meats  
 Indiana Packers Corporation  
 Jac Pac Foods Ltd.  
 Johnsonville Foods  
 Kowalski Sausage Company, Inc.  
 Maverick Ranch Lite Beef, Inc.  
 MPCA, Inc.  
 Norbest, Inc.  
 Omaha Steaks, Inc.  
 Provimi Veal Corporation  
 Stevison Ham Company  
 Sun-Husker Foods, Inc.  
 Taylor Packing  
 Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.  
 Wright Brand Foods, Inc.  
 Certified Angus Beef Program  
 Foodcomm International  
 International Natural Sausage Casing Association  
 KoSa  
 Meat and Livestock Australia  
 New Zealand Meat Producers Board  
 Packaging Digest Magazine  
 The Schroeder Group  
 ABC Research Corporation  
 A.C. Legg Inc.  
 Advanced Instruments Inc.  
 AEW Thurne, Inc. Ltd.  
 Alfacel, Inc.  
 ALKAR  
 Amana Appliances  
 American Engineering Corporation  
 Aspen Systems  
 Bell-Mark Inc.  
 Bell Paper Box, Inc.  
 Bettcher Industries, Inc.  
 BioControl Systems, Inc.  
 Blentech Corporation  
 BOC Gases  
 Bolton & Menk, Inc.  
 Bridge Machine Co., Inc.  
 Bunzl Distribution USA  
 Carruthers Equipment Company  
 Carter & Burgess, Inc.  
 Cretel Food Equipment Inc.  
 Custom Metalcraft, Inc.  
 CVP Systems, Inc.  
 DAPEC, Inc./NUMAFA USA  
 Deltrak, Inc.  
 Dewied International, Inc.  
 The Dupps Company  
 Equipment Exchange Company of America  
 The Facility Group  
 The Ferrite Company  
 Flavex Protein Ingredients—Division of Arnhem, Inc.  
 FoodUSA.Com  
 Foss North America, Inc.  
 FPEC CORP of Arkansas  
 F.R. Drake  
 G.B.C-111 International, LTD.

General Machinery Corporation  
 GlobalFoodExchange.com  
 Grain Processing Corporation  
 Grote Company  
 The HACCP Consulting Group, L.L.C.  
 Handtmann, Inc.  
 Hansen-Rice, Inc.  
 Hantover, Inc.  
 Harpak, Inc.  
 The Haskell Co.  
 HDR Engineering, Inc.  
 Heat and Control, Inc.  
 Henningsen Cold Storage Company  
 Hollymatic Corporation  
 Hutchison-Hayes Separators, Inc.  
 Hyder North American, Inc.  
 Hydrite Chemical Company  
 IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.  
 International Casings Group, Inc.  
 J.M. Swank Company  
 Jem Analytical Laboratory Services  
 JetNet Corporation  
 Jif-Pak Manufacturing, Inc.  
 Koch Supplies Inc.  
 Le Fiehl Company  
 Linker Machines  
 Loma International, Inc.  
 Mahaffy & Harder Engineering Company  
 Maja Equipment  
 Marlen Research Corporation  
 Mepaco/Apache Stainless Equipment Corp.  
 Mettler Toledo  
 Mince Master  
 Nalco Chemical Co.  
 Neogen Corporation  
 New Science Management  
 Norwood Marking Systems, Inc.  
 NSF International  
 NuTEC Manufacturing, Inc.  
 Planet Products Corporation  
 Prime Prodata, Inc.  
 Prime Label Consultants, Inc.  
 Remco Products Corporation  
 Ross Industries, Inc.  
 Rudolph Industries  
 Russell Harrington Cutlery Co.  
 Karl Schnell, Inc.  
 Sensitech, Inc.  
 S.F.B. Plastics, Inc.  
 Silliker Laboratories Group  
 Speco, Inc.  
 The Stellar Group  
 Strahman Valves, Inc.  
 Tipper Tie, Inc.  
 Treif USA, Inc.  
 Triton Commercial Systems  
 Unitherm Food Systems  
 Vande Berg Scales  
 CV999 Packaging Systems  
 Waterlink/Hycor  
 Whizard Protective Wear Corporation  
 York Saw & Knife  
 Zer-O-Loc Insulated Panel & Door Systems

Juan Avina, 21, San Antonio, TX.  
 Theodoro Espada, 33, Dallas, TX.  
 Samuel Foster, 30, Chicago, IL.  
 Jonathan Hayes, 28, New Orleans, LA.  
 Johnny Jackson, 21, Detroit, MI.  
 Jamie Jones, 21, Miami-Dade County, FL.  
 Frank Ivery Odom, 23, Washington, DC.  
 Antonio Rodriguez, 20, Kansas City, MO.  
 Carlos Santiago, 23, Chicago, IL.  
 Eric T. Smith, 24, Chicago, IL.  
 Michael Theard, 35, New Orleans, LA.  
 Lakecia Wesley, 20, Washington, DC.  
 Unidentified male, 53, Charlotte, NC.  
 Unidentified male, Newark, NJ.

S. RES. 319

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise in support of S. Res. 319, which the Senate approved on Friday, during National Homeownership Week. I thank my colleagues for supporting this important resolution which affects the security and welfare of Missourians and all Americans. This resolution addresses the importance of placing quality housing within reach of a greater number of Americans as well as improving housing opportunities for Americans at all income levels. I, along with my colleagues, support the efforts of Habitat for Humanity and "The House the Senate Built" project.

As you know, the largest debt most families take on in their lifetimes is a home. Over 65 percent of Americans own a home, as do approximately 80 percent of Americans over the age of 50. This represents real progress. In 1940, fully 56 percent of Americans were renters. Clearly, America has come a long way. People buy homes for different reasons. A home can be a place of safety to raise a family, the potential of financial security, a sense of community. All around Missouri, and across this great nation, couples of all ages agree that buying a home is among the essential steps a family takes to ensure stability and prosperity in their lives.

While homes are a worthwhile investment, they also are expensive. Real estate experts recommend that families buy homes valued at over three times their annual income—a sum far greater than what families could pay back in a year, or two, or even five. So, most Americans take out a mortgage. Once this burden of debt is behind them, they are free to dream new dreams—pay for their children's or grandchildren's education, travel, or make other investments.

Homeownership is an important factor in promoting economic security and stability for American families. The level of homeownership among foreign-born naturalized citizens who have been in the United States for at least six years is the same as the level of homeownership of the Nation as a whole. When families such as these, who are new to our shores, prosper, we as a nation prosper.

This resolution expresses the Senate's concern for improving homeownership in America. The resolution

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read some of the names of those who lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today, on June 14, 1999:

commends the nonprofit housing organization, Habitat for Humanity, and supports their commitment to partner with the United States Senate to strengthen neighborhoods and communities by building simple and affordable homes with low-income buyers. I thank Senator BROWNBACK for offering this resolution and endorse its passage.

#### ESTATE TAX RELIEF

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for S. 1128, the Estate Tax Elimination Act.

Mr. President, I came to understand the impact of the federal estate tax during my first campaign for election to the U.S. Senate. As I met with hundreds of small businessmen and women, timber lot owners, and farmers and ranchers, I consistently heard the federal estate tax was a major road-block to the long-term success of their family operations.

But when I came to the Senate in 1993, it appeared it would be a long time before Congress could take action on the estate tax, or any other tax issue for that matter. We faced deficits as far as the eye could see. We had to make hard choices about spending cuts and tax relief for the neediest families. I'm pleased that my colleagues and I on the Democratic side made those tough choices in 1993 and in subsequent years. Combined with a strong economy, those tough choices gave us the opportunity to be in the position we are in today.

The effort to roll back the federal estate tax, and provide relief for farms and small businesses, started slowly. In 1995, I joined those efforts by introducing S. 161, the American Family Business Preservation Act. Senator Bob Dole was the prime Republican cosponsor of this measure. With respect to the estate tax, the Murray-Dole bill would have reduced the maximum estate tax rate from 55 percent to 15 percent if the heirs continued to own and operate a business for ten years after the death of the primary owner. Given the limited resources we had, I believed this modest bill was a good step forward.

In 1997, Congress passed the Taxpayer Relief Act, a bipartisan effort to reduce taxes for working Americans. The bill provided for an increase in the estate tax exemption over ten years, and created an additional exemption for small business and farm assets. I supported this bipartisan initiative to provide estate tax relief to my constituents. As it is phased in, this law will help to ensure the very small percentage of estates subject to the estate tax bill grow even smaller.

But we should all recognize the environment has changed. As projected surpluses have grown, the debate about the estate tax has turned from increas-

ing the exemption to outright repeal. Estate tax opponents have made their case for elimination, and it's compelling. The question for me is no longer whether the estate tax will or should be repealed, but how and when it will be repealed. I believe one of the appropriate roles for Democrats in this debate—the same Democrats who helped balance the budget—is to ensure that we promote as progressive an end to the estate tax as possible.

At this moment in time, I believe S. 1128 is the most progressive estate tax repeal vehicle that is under consideration. Instead of taxing an estate when it is transferred to the next generation, it would require heirs to pay a capital gains tax on appreciated value when the asset is sold. This provides an effective mechanism for transferring farm and business assets, while still maintaining a reasonably progressive tax structure.

I understand there is some debate about whether S. 1128 or similar proposals will increase the tax code's complexity. Now that the House has overwhelmingly passed estate tax repeal, we have an ideal opportunity to engage in a serious, thoughtful debate about the current effects of the estate tax and the possible implications of various repeal proposals. I believe by the end of this year, Congress, the Administration, and the American public will have a better understanding of the complex choices we face.

I would like to make it clear that I do not believe estate tax repeal should be the only tax priority of this or future Congresses. There are many inequities, complexities, and inefficiencies in the tax code, many of which affect low- and middle-income working families who need tax relief the most.

In the spirit of helping those who need it the most, I have cosponsored legislation to address the alternative minimum tax and the marriage penalty. In addition, I have cosponsored tax legislation to expand health insurance, improve the infrastructure of our nation's public schools, encourage alternative energy sources, enhance the safety net for farmers and ranchers, and increase the availability of child care and long-term care. Last year, I sponsored tax legislation to protect forest and agricultural land, which passed the Senate in July.

Estate tax relief should certainly be an important component in any agenda to provide relief and economic opportunities to working families and family-owned businesses. Therefore, I support estate tax repeal in the context of a modest, targeted tax cut benefitting working families.

Before the end of the year, Congress and the Administration will likely reach agreement on a reconciliation package. Further reform—if not repeal—of the estate tax should be a part of that package. While repeal may not

be possible this year, I look forward to strongly supporting increased exemptions for small business and farm assets. At the very least, we should guarantee a brighter and less complicated future for those families that need estate tax reform the most.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor S. 1128, and to work toward meaningful action on the estate tax issue before Congress adjourns this fall.

#### 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Normandy, Pusan, Panama, and Kuwait are well-known names in our nation's history. I proudly rise to honor an American institution that has proven its unparalleled greatness time and again in battles such as these. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing today as the 225th anniversary of the U.S. Army.

When the Second Continental Congress established the U.S. Army on June 14, 1775, it set forth an organization that has repeatedly faced adversity straight in the eye and never backed down. From fulfilling the promises of the Declaration of Independence to countering Saddam Hussein's aggression in Kuwait, the Army's dedication to our nation's bedrock values and its protection of our cherished freedoms has been exemplary. For more than two centuries, Army personnel have rallied to both defend our American shores and ensure the rights of citizens around the world.

The role of a soldier has changed drastically over the Army's rich, 225-year history. Technological and political changes have altered the battlefield landscape, but the core principles the Army consistently upholds have not changed. Those principles were captured by General Douglas MacArthur in his 1962 address at West Point:

Duty, honor, country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn.

While many of the Army's accomplishments have been in battle, others have come during pivotal moments of peace. Since its inception, the Army has been instrumental in humanitarian and disaster relief efforts that have helped countless citizens in their greatest time of need. By helping tornado victims throughout the American Midwest or assisting in the flood-ravaged areas of Mozambique, Army personnel serve honorably.

The Army has a long history of turning ordinary men and women into distinguished soldiers. Currently, there are about 480,000 soldiers on active