rather than waiting for all 50 States to adopt uniform laws. S. 761 will provide the basic foundation for the rules, regulations, and, in the future, the technology of electronic commerce in America. It will foster the<ref name="page1"/> continued expansion of electronic commerce. More importantly, it will empower consumers to take part in a vibrant segment of our economy. It will afford consumers from all across America the real opportunity, if they so choose, to take advantage of electronic commerce. This, to me, is the crux of this legislation. The ability of our citizens in all 50 States to improve the quality of their lives. S. 761 provides that ability. Some have expressed concern that this measure places a higher standard and unnecessary burdens on the on-line world than those in effect for the off-line world. I do not think that a good-faith effort was made to provide the flexibility necessary for those with that great entrepreneurial spirit and imaginative ability to advance the Internet and electronic commerce. If, over time, bureaucracy does indeed impede the bill's intent, I expect that Congress will again assume responsibility and take corrective action. The participation of several Members of Congress was integral to this bill's enactment. They include the chairmen of both the House and Senate Commerce Committees, Chairman Bliley and Chairman Gramm, of the Senate Banking Committee, and Chairman Hatch of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I extend my thanks to them and to all of the those Senate staffers who worked hard to prepare this legislation for consideration. Renee Bennett, Molly Boyd, Jeanne Bumpus, Cesar Conda, Robert Cresantti, Makan Delrahim, Geoff Gray, Martin Grunenberg, Carole Grunberg, Dave Hoppe, Jack Howard, Jim Hippe, Kevin Kolevar, Chase Hutto, Jim Hyland, Julie Katzman, Maureen McLaughlin, Paul Maglie, Mike Rawson, Dena Ellis Rockkind, Lisa Rosenberg and Jim Sartucci, as well as my former Congressional Fellow, Steven Apicella. I thank them all. Electronic signatures is an innovative technology whose time has come. S. 761 will remove barriers to their use in a timely and useful manner. S. 761 will make it easier for millions of Americans to use electronic commerce. S. 761 will help stimulate our nation's economy. And S. 761 will preserve America's leadership in the global marketplace. I am proud that the 106th Congress has taken this action. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their work on the legislation which has just passed. This is an extraordinarily important bill which will essentially open up opportunities in e-commerce that have previously not been existent for Americans. It will be a tremendous incentive to our economy. I express to all my colleagues my appreciation for their hard work on the legislation. It is a significant accomplishment for the Congress. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator Leahy, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the next order of business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF BEVERLY B. MARTIN, OF GEORGIA, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

NOMINATION OF JAY A. GARCIA-GREGORY, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

NOMINATION OF LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the nominations were considered and confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Mr. Craig. Mr. President, I have served an hour of that time. I know there are other Senators who wish to speak. I will not use the whole hour. I would like to change the order. My colleague from Montana has a couple of minutes on an issue. My colleague from Minnesota wishes to speak for 10 minutes. Then I would return to the hour. We will not take all that hour. The Senator from Washington has comments she wants to make during this period of time. I ask unanimous consent that it follow in that order.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

Mr. Grams. Mr. President, I will take a few minutes this morning to talk about an industry that is very important to the State of Minnesota, and that is our dairy industry. June is National Dairy Month, and I come to the floor today to pay tribute to the family farmers who rise early every morning to supply fresh milk to our Nation. We as consumers assume there will always be dairy products in our grocery stores, without considering the hard work that is a daily requirement to get them there.

I grew up on a dairy farm myself, and I can remember those early morning