rather than waiting for all 50 States to adopt uniform laws. S. 761 will provide
the basic foundation, or the rules that
twill anchor the future of electronic
commerce in America. It will foster
the 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 elec-
tronic commerce. This, to me, is the
crucifix of this legislation. The ability
of our citizens in all 50 States to improve
the quality of their lives. S. 761 pro-
vides 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 see that it does not. I
believe 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 im-
pede the bill’s intent, I expect that
Congress will again assume respon-
sibility 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 Com-
merce Committees, Chairman BILEY
and Chairman MCCAIN, Chairman
GRAMM of the Senate Banking Com-
mittee, and Chairman HATCH of the
Senate Judiciary Committee. I extend
my thanks to them and to all of the
members of the conference for their atten-
tiveness and commitment to this
important issue.

I also want to take a few moments to express my special appreciation to
colleague and good friend, Senator
ABRAHAM. Senator ABRAHAM recognized
early on the extreme importance of
electronic signatures. It was his initia-
tive that led to the 106th Congress’ en-
actment of the Government Paperwork
Elimination Act, a significant first
step toward the eventual broad use and
acceptance of electronic signatures.

Senator ABRAHAM’s continued steward-
ship, vision, and tireless efforts have
led to the next logical step of now af-
fording these same accessibil-
ities in electronic commerce for the
private sector and millions of con-
sumers. I believe no other Senator
worked as hard on, or knows as much
about, this issue as Senator ABRAHAM.
Without his hard work, keen judgment,
and persistence, I do not believe we
would be voting on this conference re-
port today. Senator ABRAHAM is to be
commended for his leadership in this
area, and I look forward to working
with him on other important tech-
nology issues facing Congress.

It goes without saying that Congress
could not operate without the ded-
cated efforts of staff. I want to identify
those Senate staffers who worked hard
to prepare this legislation for consider-
ation. Renee Bennett, Mark Boyd,
Jeanne Bumpus, Cesar Conda, Robert
Cresantii, Makan Delrahim, Geoff Gray,
Martin Grunenberg, Carole Grunberg,
Dave Hoppe, Jack Howard, Jim Hippe,
Kevin Kolevar, Chase Hutto, Jim Hyland,
Julie Katzman, Maureen McClaughlin,
Paul Margie, Mike Rawson, Dena Ellis
Rochkind, Lisa Rosenberg and Jim Sartucci, as well as
my former Congressional Fellow,
Steven Apicella. I thank them all.

Electronic signatures is an innova-
tive 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 mar-
ketplace. I am proud that the 106th
Congress has taken this action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sen-
ator from Michigan.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I
thank my colleagues on both sides of
the aisle for their work on the legisla-
tion 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 econ-
omy. I express to all my colleagues my
appreciation for their hard work on the
legislation. It is a significant accom-
plishment for the Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sen-
ator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of
Senator LEAHY, I ask unanimous con-
ference for 10 minutes on an issue. My colleague from
Montana has a couple of
moments on an issue. My colleague from
Minnesota wishes to speak for 10 min-
utes. Then I would assume my hour.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I have re-
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 col-
league from Montana has a couple of
minutes on an issue. My colleague from
Minnesota wishes to speak for 10 min-
utes. Then I would like to take the rest
of the hour. We will not take all that hour.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I will take
a few minutes this morning to talk about an industry that is very im-
portant 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 require-
ment to get them there.

I grew up on a dairy farm myself, and
I can remember those early morning
morning. I ask unanimous con-
fused. The motions to recon-
side are laid upon the table, and the
President will immediately be notified
of the Senate’s actions.

The nominations were considered and
confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under
the previous order, the nominations
will proceed to the Senate’s actions.

The nominations were considered and
confirmed.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I have re-
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 col-
league from Montana has a couple of
minutes on an issue. My colleague from
Minnesota wishes to speak for 10
minutes. Then I would like to take the rest
of the hour. We will not take all that hour.

The Senator from Washington has com-
ments she wants to make during this
period of time. I ask unanimous con-
sent that it follow in that order.

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

THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I will take
a few minutes this morning to talk about an industry that is very im-
portant to the State of Minnesota, and
that is our dairy industry.

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