my liaison with my Disability Advisory Committee in Utah. He also has been a tireless advocate for Native Americans and has enhanced my work on the Committee on Indian Affairs.

For those who have been blessed to work with Rob, they understand that beneath the soft-spoken, dedicated work of this kind man is the caring heart of a true gentleman. He is a man you can genuinely trust, a man of his word, a man of integrity. He seeks not just to do his job, but to do it well. He came to his office each morning not to work, but to serve. His gentle nature is equally defined by his loyalty and worth ethic.

I am grateful to Rob for his efforts, for his personal sacrifices, and for the many nights and weekends he spent ensuring that work on these vital issues was complete. I want to publicly thank him for all of his many contributions. I wish him the best as he confronts this new challenge.

RETIREMENT OF JESS ARAGON

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I rise today to call to your attention the retirement of one of our country’s finest public servants. Jess Aragon, the Budget Officer of the Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration, is leaving after 33 years of Federal service. In his capacity as Budget Officer, he controlled the formulation, justification, and execution of some $10 billion of our taxpayers’ funds in a manner that set him apart for his professionalism and courtesy. He has personally assisted the Appropriations Committee time and time again, and has been especially helpful when the chips were down and information was desperately needed to make our bills and reports come together.

A native of Albuquerque, NM, Jess’ career began with a four-year stint in the Air Force. Following this, he entered public service with the New Mexico State Employment Security Agency, after which he joined the Department of Labor. He and his wife, Myra, are retiring to San Juan, PR, and I, and the other members and staff of the Appropriations Committee, wish them all the best, and offer a heartfelt thanks for a career devoted to serving the American people.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred December 8, 1994 in Medford, OR. A man who said he thought their lifestyle was “sick” killed two prominent lesbian activists, who had been domestic partners for many years.

I believe that government’s first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol of the commitment that the American people.

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, in accordance with the rule XXVI (2) of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the rules of the Committee on Environmental and Public Works, adopted by the committee today, July 25, 2001, be printed in the RECORD.

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

RULE 1. COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN GENERAL

(a) Regular Meeting Days: For purposes of complying with paragraph 3 of Senate Rule XXVI, the regular meeting day of the committee is the first and third Thursday of each month at 10:00 A.M. If there is no business before the committee, the regular meeting shall be omitted.

(b) Additional Meetings: The chair may call additional meetings, after consulting with the ranking minority member. Subcommittee chairs may call meetings, with the concurrence of the chair, after consulting with the ranking minority members of the subcommittee and the committee.

(c) Presiding Officer: (1) The chair shall preside at all meetings of the committee. If the chair is not present, the ranking majority member shall preside.

(d) Open Meetings: Meetings of the committee, subcommittees, including hearings and business meetings, are open to the public. A portion of a meeting may be closed to the public if the committee determines by roll call vote of a majority of the members present that the matters to be discussed or the testimony to be taken will disclose matters necessary to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States; or relate solely to matters of committee staff personnel or internal staff management or procedure.

(e) Hearings: One member constitutes a quorum for conducting business.

RULE 2. QUORUMS

(a) Business Meetings: At business meetings, a majority of those physically present must approve the issuance of a subpoena or approving the subcommittee.

(b) Subcommittee Meetings: At subcommittee business meetings, a majority of those physically present must approve the issuance of a subpoena or approving the subcommittee.

(c) Continuing Quorum: Once a quorum has been established, the committee or subcommittee may continue to conduct business, unless the chair of the committee or subcommittee determines that there is good cause to provide a shorter period, in which event the announcement and notice shall be issued at least twenty-four hours in advance of the hearing.

(d) Reporting: No measures may be reported to the Senate by the committee unless a majority of committee members cast votes in person.

(e) Hearings: One member constitutes a quorum for conducting a hearing.