

Indeed, as I stated before the Foreign Relations Committee in addressing this issue in 1998, "The conditions of near-anarchy that have resulted from the sectional fighting and civil war have created in Afghanistan an environment well-suited for the training of terrorists and the production and shipment of drugs. It is no coincidence that Osama bin Laden has chosen Afghanistan as a base of operations"

Today, tragically, we have all become experts on Afghanistan and its tumultuous recent history.

The "Afghan Women and Children's Relief Act of 2001" is an important statement of the United States commitment to the future of Afghanistan and its people. A commitment to make sure that Afghanistan's women and children, who have borne the brunt of the Taliban's brutality for the past half-decade, will receive the assistance they need, and have the opportunity for a future.

As we continue to push forward in our effort to combat international terrorism I can think of few tasks more valuable than making sure that Afghanistan will never again face conditions which have made it an ideal base for terrorist operations, and that the people of Afghanistan will never again face the human suffering that they have been subject to for the past two decades.

I urge my colleague to join with Senators HUTCHISON and MIKULSKI in support of this important piece of legislation.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today in support of this very important piece of legislation. I would like to commend my colleagues, Senators HUTCHISON, MIKULSKI, and BOXER, for their leadership not only on this bill, but also in these issues generally. Women and children make up 80 percent of refugees worldwide. In Afghanistan, twenty years of civil war, political turmoil, continuing human rights violations and recent drought have already displaced more than five million of the Afghan population. Some four million refugees are displaced in neighboring countries and across the world, while another one million people are internally displaced within Afghanistan. Before September 11, severe drought had brought the country to the verge of famine and existing Taliban restrictions on relief agencies had severely hampered the delivery of assistance and civilian access to basic services. Approximately 1 million people, the majority of them women and children, will die of starvation if aid is not given to them before the winter arrives.

In addition to being denied physical needs, the women and children of Afghanistan have long been denied the freedom and respect that are also necessary to sustain human life. The oppressive rule of the Taliban removes

from their lives the very freedoms we embrace, education, free speech, and the opportunity to make a living. The Taliban restrictions are so severe that they make it nearly impossible for women to exercise these and other basic human rights. Under this rule, the very lives of women are in danger. There are hundreds of stories of women being executed, raped, or beaten. Just recently, RAWA reported that at least four women in the last six months were burned alive by their husbands for their alleged infringements of Taliban law. They received no trial for these offenses and their husbands were praised, not punished for these horrible acts.

The women members of the Senate and many of our colleagues have called on the U.S. to act to bring an end to these violations of basic human rights. Over the past several years, Senator BOXER, myself and others have called on the Foreign Relations Committee to take immediate action to ratify the Convention to End Discrimination Against Women, a treaty designed to stamp out this type of behavior worldwide. Over the last two months, Americans have been reminded of the importance of their freedoms. Many are prepared to die to protect them for all Americans. Yet if we are to be the true and lasting democracy that we hope to be, democracy and freedom cannot end at our borders. We must work to ensure that men, women and children everywhere know what it is like to be truly free.

This bill recognizes that the war to preserve freedom must be fought on two fronts. First, through military action designed to bring an end to oppressive rule. Secondly, through targeted humanitarian aid designed to provide education, health care, food and support to the citizens so that they may one day form the base of a new and free society. In providing this type of support to the women and children of Afghanistan, the United States is protecting the principles upon which this country was founded, that each and every individual in this world is "endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are, life liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Again, I am proud to join Senators HUTCHISON and MIKULSKI in support of this important legislation and I urge that we pass it into law as soon as possible.

AFGHANISTAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN RELIEF ACT OF 2001

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleagues today to again raise the plight of women, girls and children in Afghanistan. I commend Senator HUTCHISON and Senator MIKULSKI for taking the initiative to introduce the Afghan Women and Children Relief Act of 2001.

Many of us have been working since the Taliban seized control in Afghanistan to give voice to women who have been silenced, beaten, harassed and even executed.

Afghanistan has been in a cycle of war and conflict for more than twenty years. These two decades have been hard on the Afghani people but especially difficult for women, young girls and children. When the Taliban seized control in Afghanistan, the plight of women, girls and children went from a crisis existence to a catastrophic one.

As noted in our bill and mentioned by my colleagues, women in Kabul, Afghanistan represented 70 percent of the teachers when the Taliban came to power. Women in Kabul represented 50 percent of the public employees and more than 40 percent of the medical professionals including doctors. Women students made up 50 percent of the student body at Kabul universities.

Throughout Afghan society women served their country, their culture and their families as scientists and professors, as members of parliament, as leaders of their communities. The Taliban changed all of that quickly and cruelly with little consideration for the rights of women or the many roles played in Afghan society by women.

The Taliban now bans women from working as teachers, doctors or for that matter, in any profession.

The Taliban closed schools to women. Not just the teachers. But to all young girls. It is against the law for a young girl to attend a school in Afghanistan. To attend school, women and young girls in Afghanistan risk floggings, death by stoning, or single shot execution.

Women cannot leave their homes without the heavy veil style clothing. They must be accompanied by a male. Women must not laugh or make noise in public. The punishment for violating Taliban law as we have now seen in several informative documentary pieces can be deadly. Many of my constituents have contacted me shocked and outraged at the video clip of the woman ushered into a soccer stadium to the jeers of a crowd. She's forced onto the playing field on her knees where she is quickly executed by a single shot from a rifle.

Women in Afghanistan, every generation now living, is suffering under the Taliban rule. Some have been forced from meaningful lives to absolute poverty. Others now see no future in Afghanistan for themselves and their children. Still others, war widows and elderly women, are forced into prostitution or forced to sell all of their possessions to feed themselves.

Yesterday, we passed the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. I served on this subcommittee for a long time and its many programs offer hope to women in Afghanistan. The Afghan Women and Children's Relief Act notes many of these programs.

We provide assistance to help educate and immunize young girls in the world. We provide assistance in the form of maternal health care and family planning in the most needy areas of the world. We support microcredit lending, particularly to women led households, in many impoverished areas of the world.

We support international organizations from UNICEF and other UN entities to non-governmental organizations based here in the United States and throughout the world. Our bill would include Afghan women and girls in these vital programs.

As we look to aid women, young girls and children in Afghanistan, we must not assume that simply ending the Taliban rule will cure the problem. We walked away from Afghanistan when the Cold War ended, we cannot do that again when the Taliban goes. We must ensure that women and children are fully protected in the Afghan government which will eventually follow the Taliban. Women in Afghanistan must be brought back—fully brought back—into Afghan society. All of Afghanistan will be better when women are allowed again to teach, to serve publicly, and to treat illness.

Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for raising this issue. I join them as an original cosponsor of this legislation and I urge its prompt passage. Further, I call on all of our colleagues to support the appropriate funding levels which will ultimately make a great difference in the lives of Afghan women, young girls and children.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today in support of a bill sponsored by Senators HUTCHISON and MIKULSKI that would authorize the use of Federal resources to increase the education, health and living standards for women and children in living in Afghanistan, and as refugees in neighboring countries. Importantly, it also specifies that this assistance is provided in a way that protects and promotes the human rights of all people in Afghanistan.

Allow me to begin by praising the work and leadership of my colleague from Texas, Senator HUTCHISON, on behalf of women both at home and abroad. This legislation is entirely consistent with her strong beliefs and leadership to extend opportunities to women throughout the world, and I am proud to join her in support of this effort.

It is simply unconscionable that we should even have to consider such a measure in this day and age. But there should be no mistake, the facts show that Congressional support for women in Afghanistan is nothing short of a moral imperative.

This issue is not simply a matter of cultural differences, of imposing a particular viewpoint on another country or people. This is a core human rights

issue, and to ignore the plight of Afghan women is to turn our backs on a terrible wrong that we have the power and I would say the obligation as fellow human beings to help right.

This is a matter of basic justice, and it's basic justice denied under the current Taliban regime.

Prior to the Taliban's ascent to power, Afghan women enjoyed both stature and freedom. In fact, many Americans may be unaware that Afghan women were not only well educated, they constituted 70 percent of the nation's school teachers, half of the government's civilian workers, and 40 percent of the doctors in its capital.

But that all changed, or, more accurately, came to a crashing and tragic halt, with the seizure of the Afghanistan capital in September of 1996, when the Taliban began a regime of gender-based apartheid. It's a regime, I'm sad to say, that's been enforced with the most extreme brutality.

Talk about going backwards, what's happened in Afghanistan hasn't just turned back the clock, it's turned back the centuries. While the calendars tell us it's a new millennium, you'd never know it from the graphic and disturbing footage we see from the Taliban-occupied regions of Afghanistan, which paint a very different picture of Afghanistan than even five years ago.

Today, women have been banished from the work force, flat out not allowed to work . . . to earn a living . . . or to support themselves or their family. And let's not forget that, according to an October 23 article in the Chicago Tribune, and I quote, "Tens of thousands of women were said to be widowed by Afghanistan's long-running battle against Soviet occupation in the 1980's. Many have had to turn to begging and prostitution."

Under the Taliban, girls aren't allowed to go to school. And women have been expelled from the universities. In fact, incredibly, women are prohibited from leaving their homes at all unless accompanied by a close male relative, even in the event of a medical emergency for themselves or their children. These women are under house arrest, they are prisoners of their own homes.

And if that's not bad enough, they are prisoners within themselves, with the Taliban going to great and inhumane lengths to strip Afghan women's sense of self and personhood. As the world has seen over and over again in the past five years and even more so since the start of the military campaign on October 7th, Afghan women are forced to wear a burqa, leaving only a mesh hole from which they can view the world in which they cannot participate.

And heaven help those who dare to tread upon or flout these laws. Penalties for violations of Taliban laws range from beatings to public floggings

to killings, all state sanctioned. While these tragedies are not new, with the world's focus on the plight of the Afghan women, it is time for us to stand up and be counted.

For myself, I have continually supported efforts to improve the lot of women in Afghanistan, cosponsoring a resolution in the last Congress to condemn the systemic human rights abuses that are being committed against women and girls in Afghanistan, and supported a similar resolution this year that passed unanimously.

We've been a leader in assisting the people of Afghanistan, in fact, the U.S. is the largest single provider of assistance to the Afghan people, and we should continue our leadership, now more than ever, as the Taliban has brought even greater woe upon the Afghan people.

It is imperative that we distinguish between the Afghan people and the oppressive ruling Taliban that harbors terrorists within their borders. This bill highlights the ongoing plight of the Afghan women.

By authorizing the President to provide educational and health care assistance to women and children living in Afghanistan, and as refugees in neighboring countries, we recognize that women must have a future in Afghanistan. This potential for prosperity can only be realized if, as in the United States, both men and women have an opportunity to participate and contribute. That's what this bill is all about, and I hope that my colleagues will join us in supporting it.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 1574. A bill to ensure that hospitals that participate in the medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act are able to appropriately recognize and respond to epidemics resulting from natural causes and bioterrorism; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I do not have to tell my colleagues here in the Senate that bioterrorism has become a reality. Here, and throughout the Nation, we are frightened and frustrated by the lack of clear information on what the threats are, and how we are to find the resources to protect ourselves. With this need in mind, I proudly offer the "Public Health Emergency Planning and Information Act of 2001," a bill which would provide grants to hospitals to prepare for public health emergencies, and that would fund programs to provide the public and medical providers with accurate information about potential biological attacks.

As we have seen in the past few weeks, the first line of defense against the threat of bioterrorism relies upon swift action by local health care providers and public health officials. The quick response of doctors in Florida to

that first case of anthrax on October 4th gave the medical community and the public a warning of what was to come. Despite this recognition, and despite a small number of additional actual anthrax cases, we are currently struggling with how to respond, who to treat, what to expect next, and what information we can trust. We cannot simply wait to see what happens next, we must face this new and terrifying threat immediately.

Epidemics, whether natural or the result of deliberate attacks, unfold in communities, and may happen without warning. Our hospitals, and our physicians and nurses, must be prepared to detect outbreaks, diagnose diseases, treat patients, and activate state and federal response systems. They must be able to care for the public without becoming ill themselves.

These tasks will be made more challenging by the sadly diminished public health care infrastructure. The legacy of this chronic underfunding of state and local health departments has become all too obvious in the past few days. Last year, Congress passed legislation authored by my colleagues, Senators KENNEDY and FRIST, to begin supplying the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and our State and local health departments with the funding that they so desperately need. I applaud this goal, and trust that we can continue to build on those efforts.

I remain concerned, however, about the resources available to local hospitals. Under pressures to contain the costs of health care, providers have shifted emphasis from hospital-based care to outpatient treatment over the last decade. This change, accompanied by ever shrinking staffing levels, has eroded our ability to care for a large number of patients at once. Annual epidemics of influenza already overwhelm the capacity of local health care systems, and now hospitals struggle to care for the ill while preparing for the unthinkable. Providers in small communities, particularly, have been less involved in Federal disaster training, and are most likely to lack the resources to accommodate a surge of patients during a deliberate or natural epidemic. Many caregivers from my own State of West Virginia have contacted me in recent weeks, desperate for resources to aid their preparations.

Current standards established by accrediting organizations and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention outline basic steps in emergency preparedness that should, or must, for accreditation purposes, be undertaken by all hospitals and health care facilities. However, almost all Federal funding for medical disasters has been released in response to emergencies, rather than to prepare for them. Hospitals have seen little financial incentive for purchasing equipment or supplies that might never be used, especially in the climate of managed care.

The legislation that I introduce today would provide funding to aid these hospitals in preparing for emergencies, and to equip and train medical professionals to protect themselves and their patients during a public health crisis. My bill allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants directly to Medicare-eligible hospitals to meet emergency preparedness standards. These funds could be used to train personnel, increase communications between hospitals and local emergency response systems, and purchase necessary supplies or equipment. This bill would also protect hospitals that meet the public's need in a designated disaster area by covering the costs of replacing safety equipment and caring for the uninsured, so hospitals are not bankrupted by supporting public health.

In addition to preparing our medical professionals for the possibility of an epidemic, we must prepare ourselves. The past week has revealed a glaring flaw in our public health response: the failure to provide essential facts about the symptoms and best responses to suspected bioterrorist attacks. Even here, in the United States Senate, staff who might have been exposed to a biological threat have wrestled with a lack of information and with misinformation. Poor information about basic personal safety, and about symptoms and risk, has made a bad situation worse, and the panic has spread from the Capitol throughout the Nation.

During a public health crisis, such as a deliberate act of bioterrorism or a natural epidemic, qualified professionals should be able to deliver accurate and timely information to the public. We cannot ask individuals to make good decisions about protecting themselves and their families without helping them to understand the risks and the realities of potential outbreaks. We must act to ensure that American citizens can turn to a reliable, understandable source of information on agents such as anthrax.

My legislation would provide funding for public health crisis education and information, and would require publication of educational materials for use by medical professionals and the general public. These materials would be designed to prepare the public for the most likely foreseeable events in order to avert panic, and to promote good public health.

These programs will help hospitals and the public prepare not only for the threat of bioterrorism, but for the equally demanding tasks of controlling now-familiar epidemics of influenza and food-borne illnesses. We have been forced to confront our vulnerability to attacks that were until recently unthinkable, and to seek new ways to prepare and to protect ourselves, not only for the anthrax attack unfolding

before us, but for the possible threats of the future. We must act now to prepare for whatever challenges lie ahead, as well as react to the fear at hand. I ask my colleagues to support this legislation, so that we may begin the steps necessary to protect the health of our Nation.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. BOND):

S. 1575. A bill to provide new discretionary spending limits for fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Governmental Affairs, jointly, pursuant to the order of August 4, 1977, with instructions that if one Committee reports, the other Committee have thirty days to report or be discharged.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce budget legislation to increase the discretionary spending limits for fiscal year 2002 and eliminate the current balances on the pay-go scorecard. While it is likely that this or similar language will be included in one of the remaining appropriations bills, I believe it is important to introduce this bill and have it referred to the Committee on the Budget in order to assert the committee's jurisdiction over such matters.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and a brief summary be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1575

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FY 2002 BUDGETARY PROVISIONS.

(a) DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.—

(1) NEW DISCRETIONARY CAPS FOR 2002.—Section 251(c)(6) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(c)) is amended by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) for the discretionary category: \$681,441,000,000 in new budget authority and \$670,447,000,000 in outlays;”

(2) NEW ALLOCATION TO THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES.—Notwithstanding the provisions of H. Con. Res. 83, as agreed to on May 10, 2001 (107th Congress) and the joint statement of managers accompanying the conference report for the resolution, the budget authority and outlays for fiscal year 2002 allocated under section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633) to the Committees on Appropriations shall be as follows:

	(In millions)	
	Budget Authority	Outlays
General purpose discretionary	683,201	702,806
Memo:		
On-budget	679,622	699,281
Off-budget	3,579	3,525

(3) ENFORCEMENT OF BUDGET AGGREGATES.—Notwithstanding the provisions of H. Con. Res. 83, as agreed to on May 10, 2001 (107th Congress) and the joint statement of managers accompanying the conference report

for the resolution, for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the recommended levels and amounts set out in sections 101(2) and 101(3) with respect to fiscal year 2002 of that resolution shall be—

(A) \$1,653,193,000,000 in new budget authority; and

(B) \$1,615,308,000,000 in outlays.

(4) ADJUSTMENTS FOR EMERGENCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), in making any adjustments required by section 314(b)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and in preparing the report as required by section 254(f)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 904(f)(2)) with respect to fiscal year 2002, the adjustments required by section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall not exceed \$2,200,000,000 in budget authority and \$1,030,000,000 in outlays.

(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to legislation that is designated by the President and Congress as providing emergency funding in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

(b) TREATMENT OF PAY-GO SPENDING.—In preparing the final sequestration report required by section 254(f)(3) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 for fiscal year 2002, in addition to the information required by that section, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall change any balance of direct spending and receipts legislation for fiscal year 2002 under section 253 of that Act so as to eliminate any balances resulting from legislation enacted prior to the date of enactment of this Act. All legislation enacted subsequently shall be recorded in accordance with section 253 of that Act.

(c) REPEAL.—Section 203 of H. Con. Res. 83, agreed to May 10, 2001 (107th Congress) is repealed.

S. 1575—SUMMARY

Amends section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to provide discretionary spending limits for fiscal year 2002 consistent with those negotiated by the Administration and Leaders of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

Provides a new section 302(a) allocation to the Senate Committee on Appropriations consistent with the amended statutory limits.

Both the statutory limits and the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations in this bill are consistent with those set forth in the legislation reported on a bipartisan basis from the House Committee on the Budget, see H.R. 3084.

Provides new budget resolution aggregates with respect to new budget authority and outlays for fiscal year 2002, for enforcement of section 311 of the Budget Act.

Limits the congressional scorekeeping and statutory adjustments for emergency spending to \$2.2 billion in keeping with the agreement between the Administration and the Appropriations Committees. Provides an exception for emergency spending related to the attacks of September 11, 2001.

Eliminates the balance on OMB's pay-go scorecard as of the date of enactment. Consequently requires any additional mandatory spending or revenue reductions to be either offset or designated as an emergency.

Repeals section 203 of the fiscal year 2002 budget resolution which created a mechanism for congressional implementation of a

change in the statutory spending limits and a "firewall" between defense and non-defense discretionary spending.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. 1576. A bill to amend section 1710 of title 38, United States Code, to extend the eligibility for health care of veterans who served in Southwest Asia during the Persian Gulf War; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I am pleased today to introduce legislation that would ensure that Gulf War veterans suffering from unexplained illnesses continue to get the care that they need. If we do not act quickly, these veterans will soon lose their priority eligibility for health care through the Department of Veterans Affairs, despite the sad fact that we still do not understand the causes of their symptoms.

As many of my colleagues know, servicemembers returning from the Gulf War in 1991 began to report a range of unexplained illnesses that many believed might have resulted from their service. Investigations by Congress, the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs, and the Institute of Medicine showed that the men and women who served in Operation Desert Storm might have been exposed to many battlefield hazards, including smoke from oil-well fires, pesticides, organic solvents, the drug pyridostigmine bromide, numerous vaccinations, and sarin nerve gas.

Unfortunately, our efforts to determine whether any or all of these hazards might be linked to specific symptoms have been limited by poor data, a lack of research into the long-term effects of low-dose exposures, and incomplete military recordkeeping. In response to concerns about the health of Gulf War veterans, Congress passed Public Law 102-585, authorizing health examinations, tasking the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate scientific evidence regarding potential Gulf War exposures, and establishing the Gulf War Veterans Health Registry, and Public Law 102-310, authorizing VA to provide health care services on a priority basis to Gulf War veterans through December 31, 2001.

Now, more than a decade after the war, scientific research has determined neither the causes of veterans' symptoms, nor the long-term health consequences of Gulf War-era exposures. In addition, the Department of Defense recently released new estimates of the number and locations of service personnel exposed to nerve agents. To meet the medical needs of these Gulf War veterans, now and as they continue to unfold, we must extend this period for providing health care services on a priority basis. The legislation that I have introduced would extend this period for 10 more years.

I ask my colleagues in joining me to extend this critical service for the men and women who served this Nation.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 1577. A bill to amend the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000 to authorize additional projects under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1577

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL PROJECT AUTHORIZATIONS.

Section 4(a) of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-576; 114 Stat. 3067) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(5) In the United Irrigation District of Hidalgo County, Texas, a pipeline and pumping system, as identified in the study conducted by Sigler, Winston, Greenwood, and Associates, Inc., dated January 2001.

"(6) In the Cameron County, Texas, Irrigation District No. 2, proposed improvements to Canal C, as identified in the engineering report completed by Martin, Brown, and Perez, dated February 8, 2001.

"(7) In the Cameron County, Texas, Irrigation District No. 2, a proposed Canal C and Canal 13 Inner Connect, as identified in the engineering report completed by Martin, Brown, and Perez, dated February 12, 2001.

"(8) In Delta Lake Irrigation District of Hidalgo and Willacy Counties, Texas, proposed water conservation projects, as identified in the engineering report completed by AW Blair Engineering, dated February 13, 2001.

"(9) In the Hidalgo and Cameron County, Texas, Irrigation District No. 9, a proposed project to salvage spill water using automatic control of canal gates, as identified in the engineering report completed by AW Blair Engineering, dated February 14, 2001.

"(10) In the Brownsville Irrigation District of Cameron County, Texas, a proposed main canal replacement, as identified in the engineering report completed by Holdar-Garcia & Associates, dated February 14, 2001.

"(11) In the Hidalgo County, Texas, Irrigation District No. 16, a proposed off-district pump station project, as identified in the engineering report completed by Melden & Hunt, Inc., dated February 14, 2001.

"(12) In the Hidalgo County, Texas, Irrigation District No. 1, a proposed canal replacement of the North Branch East Main, as identified in the engineering analysis completed by Melden & Hunt, Inc., dated February 2001.

"(13) In the Donna (Texas) Irrigation District, a proposed improvement project, as identified in the engineering analysis completed by Melden & Hunt, Inc., dated February 13, 2001.

"(14) In the Hudspeth County, Texas, Conservation and Reclamation District No. 1—

"(A) the Alamo Arroyo Pumping Plant water quality project, as identified in the engineering report and drawings completed by Gebliard-Sarma and Associates, dated July 1996; and

“(B) the construction of a 1,000 acre-foot off-channel regulating reservoir for the capture and conservation of irrigation water, as identified in the engineering report by completed by AW Blair Engineering, dated March 2001.

“(15) In the El Paso County, Texas, Water Improvement District No. 1, the Riverside Canal Improvement Project Phase I, Reach A, a canal lining and water conservation project, as identified in the engineering report and drawings completed by AW Blair Engineering, dated November 1999.

“(16) In the Maverick County, Texas, Water Improvement and Control District No. 1, the concrete lining project of 12 miles of the Maverick Main Canal, as identified in the engineering report completed by AW Blair Engineering, dated March 2001.

“(17) In the Hidalgo County, Texas, Irrigation District No. 6, rehabilitation of 10.2 miles of concrete lining in the main canal between Lift Stations Nos. 2 and 3, as identified in the engineering report completed by AW Blair Engineering, dated March 2001.

“(18) In the Hidalgo County, Texas, Irrigation District No. 2, Wisconsin Canal Improvements, as identified in the engineering report completed by Sigler, Winston, Greenwood and Associates, Inc., dated February 2001.

“(19) In the Hidalgo County Irrigation District No. 2, Lateral ‘A’ Canal Improvements, as identified in the engineering report completed by Sigler, Winston, Greenwood and Associates, Inc., dated July 25, 2001.”

SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) LOWER RIO GRANDE WATER CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.—Section 3 of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-576; 114 Stat. 3065) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of subsection (a), by striking “The Secretary” and all that follows through “in cooperation” and inserting “The Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, shall carry out a program under cooperative agreements”;

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) REVIEW AND EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall review and evaluate project proposals in accordance with the guidelines described in the document published by the Bureau of Reclamation entitled ‘Guidelines for Preparing and Reviewing Proposals for Water Conservation and Improvement Projects Under Public Law 106-576’, dated June 2000.”;

(3) in subsection (d), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, including operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement”;

(4) in subsection (e), by striking “the criteria established pursuant to this section” and inserting “the guidelines referred to in subsection (b)”;

(5) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

“(f) REPORT PREPARATION; REIMBURSEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), project sponsors may choose to enter into 1 or more contracts with the Secretary under which the Secretary shall prepare the reports required under this section.

“(2) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of report preparation by the Secretary described in paragraph (1) shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of that preparation.”; and

(6) in subsection (g), by striking “\$2,000,000” and inserting “\$8,000,000”.

(b) LOWER RIO GRANDE CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION.—Section 4 of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-576; 114 Stat. 3067) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “costs of any construction” and inserting “total project cost of any project”; and

(B) in the last sentence, by striking “spent” and inserting “expended”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “\$10,000,000” and inserting “\$47,000,000, as adjusted to reflect the change, relative to September 30, 2001, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Department of Labor”.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. REID):

S. 1578. A bill to preserve the continued viability of the United States travel industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, the “Freedom to Travel” is a basic freedom. And since September 11 we have given a great deal of focus, and rightfully so, to the airline industry. But I rise today to direct my colleague’s attention to the rest of the travel industry which has also been deeply affected by the events of September 11.

In the part of the country I come from, we’re familiar with disasters. We know what it’s like when, through no fault of your own, the world falls out from under you as a result of natural disaster. There was nothing natural about the cowardly and deadly acts of September 11, but they were certainly unpredictable, unexpected and clearly beyond the control of anyone who was affected by them.

Just as America has generously responded to natural disasters, we must now respond to this new disaster and help our fellow countrymen and women rebuild their lives and livelihood. In the aftermath of the tragedy we acted quickly, and responsibly, to stabilize the airlines with a financial package of grants and loan guarantees. And we were right to pass the aviation security bill to dramatically increase the number of sky marshals, strengthen cockpit doors and federalize the screening of passengers and luggage at our airports because we need to make sure people feel it is safe to fly.

While I supported both of those measures, we now must address the devastating impact September 11 has had on the U.S. travel and tourism industry. The network of hotels, travel agents, car rental companies, restaurants, and attractions that make up the tourism industry, has also been hard hit, and needs our support. A huge segment of our economy, the travel and tourism industry is the third largest retail industry. It generates more than \$582 billion in revenue each year, and directly and indirectly employed more than 19 million people.

North Dakota is a long way from Ground Zero in New York City, from

the Pentagon in Virginia, and from that lonely farm field in Pennsylvania. But the violence that took place at each of those locations continues to be felt half a continent away in my home State, in our hearts and yes, in our State’s tourism industry.

Let me share just two reports from North Dakota.

Randy Hatzebuhler, executive director of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, writes me to say this: his “organization has great concerns about our 2002 season. We are preparing our business plans to anticipate significant decreases in visitation—10-25 percent.”

Katherine Satrom, of Satrom Travel and Tour in Bismarck, ND tells the story even more starkly. She writes that “The week of September 11 and the week of September 17, our company’s revenue was about 25 percent of normal at best. Following weeks have been about 50 percent of average revenue for the period.” “On September 26,” she continues, “our company cut all employee salaries by 10 percent and management salaries 20 percent in an effort to avoid a reduction in workforce.” “We have been a viable business for 23 years, providing jobs and contributing to the economy,” she concludes. “We now need some assistance to bridge this disaster-related downturn and regroup for the future.”

That’s a measure of just how far-reaching, broad and deep the economic disaster now ripping through the tourism industry has grown. It reaches every State. And while what’s going on in my State is serious and grave, what is happening closer to the scene of the attacks is much, much worse. So today, along with Senators SPECTER, CONRAD, INOUE, and REID, I introduce the American Tourism Stabilization Act. Our bill follows through on a suggestion that came out of a hearing that we held in the Commerce Committee on how the travel industry is dealing with the impact of September 11. What we learned was not good. Almost uniformly we heard from rental car companies, hoteliers, travel agencies, who are struggling to stay in business as they try to cope with the sudden drop-off in business since September 11. We also heard from individual hotel workers from across the country that are part of the 1/3rd of the hospitality industry that is now struggling to pay their bills since being laid-off after September 11.

Out of that hearing came the suggestion, that as we did with the airline industry, we provide loan guarantees to help the U.S. tourism industry function until business returns.

So, the American Tourism Stabilization Act would provide \$5 billion worth of loan guarantees for eligible travel-related businesses. Building on the airline stabilization bill the American Tourism Stabilization Act would simply have the already created, Air

Transportation Stabilization Board, process loan guarantees for eligible travel-related businesses that have been adversely affected by the government shutdown of the airline industry. Specifically the bill is intended to make loans available to travel agencies, rental car companies, airport concessionaires, and others with contractual relationships with the airlines that have been directly affected by the tragedies of September 11.

The purpose of the bill is to provide liquidity to businesses that have been hurt because of their direct ties to an air carrier such as travel agencies, and airline vendors or an airport concessionaires. It would do so by making loan guarantees available, based on the ability to repay, to help tide these businesses over until air traffic and pleasure travel returns to normal. I urge my colleagues to support our effort to help the 19 million people who work in the travel industry.

By Mr. ENZI:

S. 1579. A bill to expand the applicability of daylight saving time; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce the Halloween Safety Act of 2001. The purpose of this act is to extend the end date of Daylight Saving Time from the last Sunday in October to the first Sunday in November to include the night of Halloween.

The idea of extending Daylight Saving Time was introduced to me by Sharon Rasmussen, a second grade teacher from Sheridan, WY, and her students. Ten years ago Mrs. Rasmussen's class began writing to Wyoming's representatives expressing their wish to have an extra hour of daylight on Halloween to increase the safety of small children. Each year I receive a packet of letters from Mrs. Rasmussen's class encouraging support for this reasonable proposal. Halloween is a time of great importance and excitement for youngsters throughout the United States and many celebrate by trick-or-treating door to door.

Legislation has been introduced in the past to extend Daylight Saving Time. Although many of the bills sought to change both the starting date and the ending date, the legislation I introduced today would simply extend it for one week.

The need to protect our children is apparent. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, nearly five thousand pedestrians died in 1999, that is an average of 13 deaths per day. Fatal pedestrian-motor vehicle collisions occur most often between 6 and 9 pm. Unfortunately, these general trends are highly magnified on Halloween given the considerable increase in pedestrians, most of whom are children. A study by the National Center

for Injury Prevention and Control concluded that the occurrence of pedestrian deaths for children ages 5 to 14 is four times higher on Halloween than any other night of the year. School and communities encourage children and parents to use safety measures when children venture out on Halloween and the Halloween Safety Act can further help protect our Nation's youth.

When students take an interest in improving our Nation's laws, especially when it would serve to protect other children, I believe it is our duty to pay close attention. If children are concerned about their own safety and create a reasonable approach to make their world a little bit safer, I believe that accommodating their request is not too much to ask. The fact that second and third grade students in Sheridan, WY, have been working on this legislation shows that protecting the children of our country is a primary concern of these students, and it should be for all of us as lawmakers. If one life can be saved or one accident averted by extending Daylight Saving Time, it would be worthwhile. I encourage all my colleagues to support this act for the important benefits the Halloween Safety Act of 2001 would have for children and their parents.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI:

S. 1581. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a business deduction for the purchase and installation of qualifying security enhancement property; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I am today introducing legislation that reflects the changed societal dynamic that we have witnessed since the attacks of September 11. This legislation, the American Security Enhancement Act of 2001, will allow every business in America to immediately write off the cost of security enhancements needed to keep their business operating in a safe and secure manner.

All one has to do is take a walk around the Capitol to see how much extra the Congress is spending to secure our facilities. Concrete barriers, higher security visibility, closer monitoring of cars, are just a few of the many security enhancements that have become an ordinary part of life on Capitol Hill now. The Postal Service will be spending millions to enhance the security of the mail. And the same will hold true for many businesses in this country.

It is not just the extras that airlines will have to spend. Every business in America knows that it can potentially confront threats of unknown proportions. They need to protect their employees and they need to protect their customers. In order to achieve greater security, American business is going to have to spend billions in the next several years.

My legislation attempts to alleviate some of the financial costs companies will inevitably incur whether they purchase high tech electronic monitoring equipment or low tech concrete barriers. Currently, such equipment must be depreciated over periods ranging from 5 to 15 years. Under my bill all security enhancement equipment purchased after September 11 can be expensed, written off immediately.

While investments in such equipment has become a fundamental cost of doing business; such equipment does absolutely nothing to enhance a company's profitability. Quite the contrary, it represents a cost that will have to be absorbed in the ultimate product or service the company provides.

It seems to this Senator that allowing companies to write off these costs when they purchase them is the fairest thing we can do to encourage companies to secure their employees and facilities.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1581

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "American Security Enhancement Investment Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. BUSINESS DEDUCTION FOR PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF QUALIFYING SECURITY ENHANCEMENT PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part VI of subchapter B of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to itemized deductions for individuals and corporations) is amended by inserting after section 179A the following new section:

"SEC. 179B. SECURITY ENHANCEMENT PROPERTY.

"(a) ALLOWANCE OF DEDUCTION.—A taxpayer may elect to treat the cost of any qualifying security enhancement property as an expense which is not chargeable to capital account. Any cost so treated shall be allowed as a deduction for the taxable year in which such device is placed in service.

"(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

"(1) QUALIFYING SECURITY ENHANCEMENT PROPERTY.—The term 'qualifying security enhancement property' means security enhancement property—

"(A) to which section 168 applies,

"(B) which is acquired by purchase (as defined in section 179(d)(2)), and

"(C) which is installed or placed in service in or outside of a building which is owned or occupied by the taxpayer and which is located in the United States.

"(2) SECURITY ENHANCEMENT PROPERTY.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'security enhancement property' means property which is specifically and primarily designed when installed in or outside of a building—

"(i) to detect or prevent the unlawful access by individuals into the building or onto its grounds,

“(ii) to detect or prevent the unlawful bringing into the building or onto its grounds of weapons, explosives, hazardous materials, or other property capable of harming the occupants of the building or damaging the building, or

“(iii) to protect occupants of the building or the building from the effects of property described in clause (ii).

“(B) CERTAIN PROPERTY INCLUDED.—The term ‘security enhancement property’ includes—

“(i) any security device, or

“(ii) any barrier to access to the building grounds.

“(3) SECURITY DEVICE.—The term ‘security device’ means any of the following:

“(A) An electronic access control device or system.

“(B) Biometric identification or verification device or system.

“(C) Closed-circuit television or other surveillance and security cameras and equipment.

“(D) Locks for doors and windows, including tumbler, key, and numerical or other coded devices.

“(E) Computers and software used to combat cyberterrorism.

“(F) Electronic alarm systems to provide detection notification and off-premises transmission of an unauthorized entry, attack, or fire.

“(G) Components, wiring, system displays, terminals, auxiliary power supplies, and other equipment necessary or incidental to the operation of any item described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), (D), (E), or (F).

“(4) BUILDING.—The term ‘building’ includes any structure or part of a structure used for commercial, retail, or business purposes.

“(c) SPECIAL RULES.—

“(1) BASIS REDUCTION.—For purposes of this subtitle, if a deduction is allowed under this section with respect to the purchase of a qualifying security device, the basis of such device shall be reduced by the amount of the deduction so allowed.

“(2) ONLY INCREMENTAL COST INCLUDED.—If qualifying security enhancement property has a use or function other than that described in subsection (b)(2), only the incremental cost of the use or function so described shall be taken into account.

“(3) CERTAIN RULES TO APPLY.—Rules similar to the rules of paragraphs (3) and (4) of section 179(b), section 179(c), and paragraphs (3), (4), (8), and (10) of section 179(d), shall apply for purposes of this section.”

(b) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 263(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (H) and inserting “, or”, and by inserting after subparagraph (H) the following new subparagraph:

“(I) expenditures for which a deduction is allowed under section 179B.”

(2) Section 312(k)(3)(B) of such Code is amended—

(A) by striking “or 179A” and inserting “, 179A, or 179B”, and

(B) by striking “OR 179A” in the heading and inserting “, 179A, OR 179B”.

(3) Section 1016(a) of such Code is amended by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (27), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (28) and inserting “, and”, and by inserting after paragraph (28) the following new paragraph:

“(29) to the extent provided in section 179B(c)(1).”

(4) Section 1245(a) of such Code is amended by inserting “179B,” after “179A,” both places it appears in paragraphs (2)(C) and (3)(C).

(5) The table of sections for part VI of subchapter B of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 179A the following new item:

“Sec. 179B. Security enhancement property.”

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after September 10, 2001, in taxable years ending after September 10, 2001.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 1584. A bill to provide for review in the Court of International Trade of certain determinations of binational panels under the North American Free Trade Agreement; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise to introduce important legislation designed to correct a fundamental flaw within the North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, dispute resolution mechanism, known as Chapter 19. As many of my colleagues are aware, Chapter 19 has revealed itself to be unacceptable in its current form. The Integrity of the U.S. Courts Act, that I introduce today with my colleague Mr. BAUCUS, is necessary to make certain bilateral dispute resolution decisions from the NAFTA are made pursuant to U.S. trade laws.

At present, antidumping and countervailing duty determinations made by NAFTA members are appealed to ad hoc panels of private individuals, instead of impartial courts created under national constitutions. These panels are supposed to apply the same standard of review as a U.S. court in order to determine whether a decision is supported by substantial evidence on the agency record, and is otherwise in accordance with the law. This standard requires that the agency's factual findings and legal interpretations be given significant deference. Unfortunately, in spite of the panels' mandate, they all too often depart from their directive and fail to ensure that the correct standard of review is applied.

The Integrity of the U.S. Courts Act would permit any party to a NAFTA dispute involving a U.S. agency decision to remove appellate jurisdiction from the Extraordinary Challenge Committee, ECC, to the U.S. Court of International Trade. Doing so would resolve some of the constitutional issues raised by the Chapter 19 system, expedite resolution of cases, and ensure conformity with U.S. law.

The infirmities of Chapter 19 are real, and have been problematic from the beginning. The Justice Department, the Senate Finance Committee, and other authorities are on record of having expressed serious concern about giving private panelists, sometimes a majority of whom are foreign nationals, the

authority to issue decisions about U.S. domestic law that have the binding force of law. These appointed panelists, coming from different legal and cultural disciplines and serving on an ad hoc basis, do not necessarily have the interest that unbiased U.S. courts have in maintaining the efficacy of the laws, as Congress wrote them.

One of the most egregious examples of the flaws of Chapter 19 is reflected in a case from early in this process, reviewing a countervailing duty finding that Canadian lumber imports benefit from enormous subsidies. Three Canadian panelists outvoted two leading U.S. legal experts to eliminate the countervailing duty based on patently erroneous interpretations of U.S. law—interpretations that Congress had expressly rejected only two months before. Two of the Canadian panelists served despite undisclosed conflicts of interest. The matter was then argued before a Chapter 19 appeals committee, and the two committee members outvoted the one U.S. member to once again insulate the Canadian subsidies from U.S. law.

The U.S. committee member was Malcolm Wilkey, the former Chief Judge of the federal Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and one of the United States' most distinguished jurists. In his opinion, Judge Wilkey wrote that the lumber panel decision “may violate more principles of appellate review of agency action than any opinion by a reviewing body which I have ever read.” Judge Wilkey and former Judge Charles Renfrew, also a Chapter 19 appeals committee member, have since expressed serious constitutional reservations about the system. While some have claimed that Chapter 19 decides many cases well, its inability to resolve appropriately large disputes, and its constitutional infirmity, demand a remedy.

It is clear that the time is long past due to remedy Chapter 19. From the outset, the NAFTA agreement contemplated that given the sensitive and unusual subject matter, signatories might have to alter their obligations under Chapter 19. The Integrity of the U.S. Courts Act is a reasonable solution to a serious problem.

I urge my colleagues to join Senators BAUCUS and COCHRAN and me in our effort to fix this problem that is unfairly harming American industry, and more important, the U.S. Constitution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1969. Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2330, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

SA 1970. Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. COCHRAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 2330, supra.