

and appreciation to the veterans of wars past—and to those who are engaged today in fighting this new war against terrorism.

I am proud of what has been accomplished in Congress in recent years to honor America's veterans. We have expanded educational benefits, improved life insurance coverage, and opened new national cemeteries. And we have worked hard to increase funding for VA medical care. We intend to build on these accomplishments with further improvements in VA services and benefits. I thank my colleagues for their past support, and I urge them to continue in their steadfast support for veterans. Very few things we do here are more important.

Whereas Memorial Day is dedicated to remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, Veterans Day is dedicated to acknowledging the commitment and devotion to duty millions of former soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines made to this great Nation. Veterans are the best of America—people who, through sacrifice, dedication, and love of country, protected our freedoms, liberties, and way of life. This Sunday I ask every American to join me in honoring them. I also ask that we take a moment to acknowledge and thank the warriors of today who are the veterans of tomorrow.

ENHANCING SECURITY OF U.S. BORDERS

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, as a member of the Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Immigration; the Select Committee on Intelligence; and the Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Technology, Terrorism, and Government Information, I am committed to improving the integrity of our immigration system. My positions on these committees also have given me an understanding of the unique interrelationship between immigration, national security, and law enforcement.

I am especially interested in border security issues. The tragic September 11 bombings have made it clear that we must improve our law enforcement and intelligence systems to enhance public safety and national security, particularly at our borders. I am pleased that two bills have been introduced to revise our immigration and visa system to enhance our border security. The chair and ranking member of the Immigration Subcommittee, Senators KENNEDY and BROWNBACK, introduced S. 1618, the "Enhanced Border Security Act." The chair and ranking member of the Technology and Terrorism Subcommittee, Senators FEINSTEIN and KYL, introduced S. 1627, the "Visa Entry Reform Act."

The Kennedy-Brownback bill emphasizes an immigration approach, while

the Feinstein-Kyl bill reflects a keen understanding of the needs of law enforcement. While there are a few overlapping, even conflicting, provisions in these bills, I think that the sponsors have some excellent ideas and are clearly headed in the right direction. Both bills seek to improve data sharing between agencies that are responsible for protecting our borders.

At the same time, I think it is very important that we do not "reinvent the wheel." In the recently passed counterterrorism law, "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001", USA PATRIOT ACT, Congress passed a provision of mine to demonstrate how we can expand the Integrated Automated Identification System to help secure our borders. We already have the technology available to pre-screen, identify, verify individuals, and share information through the FBI's fingerprint database. We ought to leverage our previous investment in this system.

Specifically, if someone is on an international "watch list" or "wanted" in connection with a criminal or intelligence investigation in the United States, we need to know this information. I believe our decisions as to whom we allow to enter and stay in our country are only as good as the information upon which we base our decisions. My provision in our new counter-terrorism law requires the FBI to report to Congress on how its fingerprint database and other systems can be used to address this problem.

Again, I anticipate that these bills will be reconciled into a comprehensive border security bill. I hope to work with the sponsors of both bills and help bridge the gaps.

DOMESTIC TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY

Mr. KYL. Madam President, as my colleagues know, Senator ZELL MILLER and I have introduced bipartisan legislation to help our domestic travel and tourism industry recover from the devastating effects of September 11. I believe that we must focus an emergency economic stimulus package on the sector that has been most harmed: our travel and tourism industry. If we are to prevent thousands of bankruptcies, hundreds of thousands of lost jobs, and a host of indirect consequences to the rest of the economy, it is essential that we provide some immediate help to the travel and tourism industry.

The most important element of the legislation would provide a temporary \$500 tax credit per person, \$1,000 for a couple filing jointly, for personal travel expenses incurred by the end of the year. This temporary measure will help encourage Americans to resume their normal travel habits. Unlike general rebate checks to taxpayers, a tax cred-

it conditioned on travel expenses ensures that the money is spent on a specific activity, in this case an activity that will generate positive economic ripples throughout the entire American economy. It will also help create confidence and encourage Americans to get back on airplanes.

Since business-travel expenses are already deductible, temporarily restoring full deductibility for all business-entertainment expenses, including meals, that are now subject to a 50 percent limitation, also would help restore the mainstay of the travel industry: the business traveler.

In a recent letter to the President, the members of the Travel Industry Recovery Coalition endorsed the travel credit as well as elimination of the current 50 percent penalty on business meals and entertainment. I ask unanimous consent that the letter be printed in the RECORD.

I hope my colleagues will cosponsor S. 1500 and join in our bipartisan effort to preserve jobs and revive this vital sector of the economy by getting travelers traveling again.

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

NOVEMBER 2, 2001.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On behalf of the twenty-six member organizations comprising the Travel Industry Recovery Coalition representing all segments of our nations \$582 billion travel and tourism industry and listed in detail on the enclosed sheet, I write to thank you for encouraging Americans to travel again and for your Administration's ongoing efforts to make travel safe and secure. Working with your Administration, our industry has made progress ensuring that travel is safe and secure and in restoring consumer confidence in travel.

We are grateful for your leadership in expanding the low interest SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan program to small business across the entire country. We also appreciate the congressional leaders who have expressed their strong support for an expansion of the net operating loss carry-back that will be of real benefit to our industry. Unfortunately, these important efforts have not been sufficient to encourage enough travelers to travel and thus to keep workers working. The state of our travel and tourism industry thus remains precarious.

We write to urge your Administration to support bipartisan legislation introduced in both the Senate and the House that would provide a \$500 per person (\$1,000 per couple) tax credit for travel booked by the end of the year. The proposed tax credit meets your Administration's central condition for inclusion in the economic stimulus package in that it would have an immediate and significant impact on the entire economy, and would not require a permanent change to the tax code (and thus would not affect future interest rates). We believe its enactment would generate \$50 billion in economic activity and 590,000 jobs over the course of the next year. We urge you to support this temporary travel tax credit to stimulate the economy, to preserve jobs, and to bring families together this year at Thanksgiving and during the December holidays.