

of labeling. In recognition of this fact, the labeling provision included in Senator HARKIN's farm bill provides the flexibility to label items by any visible and practical means.

That said, I understand retailers would prefer to receive their produce shipments with country-of-origin labels already affixed to each piece of produce. To some degree, growers and packers are already labeling their products, and retailers are not required to provide further information if this is in the case.

Regarding those products that do not arrive at the grocery store already labeled, I encourage growers and shippers to continue to do this and to work with retailers to find the most efficient methods to provide accurate country-of-origin information and labeling.

I agree with the Senator from South Dakota that we should continue discussion with the industries impacted by this amendment, and I look forward to helping everyone identify the best methods to implement labeling legislation and ensure that consumers have ready access to country-of-origin information.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I rise today, along with my distinguished colleagues Senator MURRAY from Washington State and Senator INOUE from Hawaii in support of two amendments to the Agriculture, Conservation, and Rural Enhancement Act of 2001 to promote cooperation between Indian tribes and the United States Forest Service in the management of forest lands.

This legislation would amend the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to establish an Office of Tribal Relations and other cooperative programs within the Forest Service to better provide for the joint efforts of the Forest Service and Indian tribes. If the purpose of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act is to improve the management, resource production, and environmental protection of nonfederal forest lands, then the 17 million acres of land held by Indian tribes and individual Indians should be included as a component of this law to facilitate cooperative management of our forests.

Tribes have a significant role to play towards our national goal of ensuring that forests are managed as both sustainable resources and enduring habitats. Again, tribes or tribal members are responsible for the management of approximately 17 million acres of forest land, which is eligible for about 750 million board feet of sustainable annual harvest. Much of this land shares borders with Forest Service land, and tribes also possess treaty rights within Forest Service land. The Forest Service and tribes are linked not only by common interest but also by a very practical need to work together.

Currently tribes may participate in the Forestry Incentives and Forest

Stewardship programs under sections 4 through 6 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act. These programs provide assistance to private landowners in order to keep their forest land healthy and viable. However, the programs are designed for cooperation with State governments and do not appropriately take into account the government-to-government and trust relationships that tribes have with the Federal Government. Also, there is general lack of understanding among tribes and Forest Service personnel regarding how the existing cooperative assistance programs would extend to individual Indians with land held in trust. As a result, tribes and individual American Indian and Native Alaskan landowners seldom participate in the programs.

In October 1999, the Chief of the Forest Service established a National Tribal Relations Task Force to study tribal involvement in the management of both Forest Service and Indian-held lands. The Task Force included representatives from the Forest Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, BIA, and the Intertribal Timber Council. The Task Force found that, indeed, cooperative forestry programs that specifically work with tribal communities are greatly in need in order to establish equity in forestry assistance and to fulfill stewardship responsibilities towards the management of forestry lands held in trust.

This legislation responds to the need to improve tribal-Forest Service coordination by allowing the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture to provide financial, technical, and educational assistance for coordination on shared land, land under the jurisdiction of Indian tribes, and Forest Service land to which tribes may have interests and rights.

The Task Force similarly found, and I quote directly from the report, that "the current Forest Service tribal relations program lacks the infrastructure and support necessary to ensure high quality interactions across programs with Indian Tribes on a government-to-government basis." My colleagues and I would like to improve the Forest Service's ability to interact effectively with tribes by adding an Office of Tribal Relations within the Forest Service to be headed by a Director appointed by the Chief of the Forest Service.

This office will be responsible for the oversight of all programs and policies relating to tribes. This legislation outlines that it would be the duty of the Office of Tribal Relations to consult with tribal governments, monitor and evaluate the relations between tribal governments and the Forest Service, and coordinate matters affecting tribes in a way that is comprehensive and responsive to tribal needs. This office will also cooperate with the other agencies of the Department of Agri-

culture, the Department of Interior, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

It is important that the Forest Service be able to effectively work with tribal communities. At this point, we know from the Forest Service, the BIA, and the Intertribal Timber Council that the Forest Service lacks the programmatic structure to be able to accommodate and effectively work with tribes and those holding trust lands due to their unique legal and organizational status. As an arm of the Federal Government, the Forest Service must uphold the trust responsibilities we have towards tribes. I believe that we have a duty, to tribes and to our forests, to respond to tribes' expressed desire for assistance with forest resource planning, management, and conservation with this legislation. I would like to thank Senator DASCHLE, Senator BAUCUS, and Senator WELLSTONE for their support, and I urge the rest of my colleagues to support these amendments as well.

Mr. DASCHLE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. I ask consent that the Senate now proceed to morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

THE NEED TO PASS MTBE LEGISLATION

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I would like to engage the majority leader in a colloquy. As the majority leader knows, I have been working for nearly two years on legislation to deal with the numerous problems associated with the gasoline additive MTBE. The use of MTBE as a fuel additive grew tremendously starting with the Clean Air Act's reformulated gasoline program that was implemented in 1995. Today, MTBE makes up approximately 3 percent of the total national fuel market.

Unfortunately, when leaked or spilled into the environment, MTBE can cause serious drinking water quality problems. MTBE moves quickly through land and water without breaking down. Small amounts of MTBE can render water supplies undrinkable.

This contamination is persistent throughout the nation, and New Hampshire is certainly a State that has been

hard hit. According to State officials, up to 40,000 private wells may be contaminated with MTBE. Up to 8,000 of those wells may have MTBE contamination over the State health standards. Areas especially hard hit include both rural and urban areas. In the past few years I have visited, as well as received many calls and letters from, a number of the families whose wells are contaminated and they are extremely frustrated. When I was the chairman of the Environment & Public Works Committee, I held a field hearing in Salem, NH on this issue. Last Congress, I introduced legislation to clean up this contamination and ban the further use of MTBE. The bill was reported out of the EPW Committee, however, circumstances prevented the full Senate from considering that bill. Again this year, I introduced MTBE legislation, and once again the EPW Committee reported it out with a strong bipartisan vote. S. 950 will provide for the clean up of MTBE contamination, ban the additive, and ensure that environmental benefits of the clean gasoline program will be maintained. This is a hardship in many communities, and it will continue to escalate unless it is dealt with soon. No American should have to be concerned with the water they drink.

Mr. DASCHLE. Yes, I do understand the problems associated with MTBE and I recognize your hard work in helping to bring about a resolution to this important issue. I also share the concerns of the Assistant Majority Leader, co-sponsor of S. 950, with regards to the devastating contamination found in communities surrounding Lake Tahoe, NV.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Because this is such a vital issue to New Hampshire and the nation, it is my intention to do all within my power to see that the Senate acts on this matter. I appreciate all of the efforts of the majority leader to work with me in bringing this bill to the floor and would hope that the Senate will consider S. 950 in the near future. Will the majority leader provide me an assurance that this will happen?

Mr. DASCHLE. I agree that the Senate should vote on MTBE legislation in the near future and have included S. 950 in the comprehensive energy bill that I introduced with Senator BINGAMAN last week. I can assure the Senator from New Hampshire that it is my intention to bring up for debate and votes before the full Senate that energy bill, including S. 950, prior to the President's Day recess in February 2002.

ZIMBABWE DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT: A SIGNAL OF U.S. COMMITMENT TO RULE OF LAW, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

Mr. BIDEN. Madam President, I am pleased to see that after a delay of several months, the House has acted on the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001, of which I am a co-sponsor, and that we can finally send this bill to the President for his signature.

The Foreign Relations committee reported this bill in July, and it passed the Senate by unanimous consent on August 1. Since then, the situation in Zimbabwe has deteriorated rapidly. Respect for human rights and the rule of law have been systematically subverted by Zimbabwe's ruling party, and indeed by President Robert Mugabe himself. President Mugabe has supported the invasion of farms by so called "war veterans," he has intimidated judges, harassed the free press, forbidden international monitors to observe next year's presidential elections and packed the supreme court with cronies in a misguided attempt to give his actions a patina of legitimacy.

Under Mugabe's leadership the economy of Zimbabwe has been driven into the ground. The deployment of troops to the Democratic Republic of Congo was an expensive ill thought fiasco which has cost millions. The illegal farm invasions have resulted in the loss of income from the country's major cash crop. Unsound fiscal policies have resulted in a suspension of aid from the international Monetary Fund, inflation is soaring, international investment has dried up and unemployment is on the rise.

The World Food Program has had to start a food distribution program in a country that should be exporting food to its neighbors. That in itself is bad enough. Worse, however, is the fact that the Zimbabwean government has stated that private relief agencies are prohibited from delivering food to the needy. Only the government can distribute food. Given the current political climate this can mean only one thing: the government will attempt to coopt the population by giving food in exchange for votes in the upcoming presidential elections.

The bill itself is very straightforward. It offers money for a credible program of land reform, and plans for U.S. support for bi-lateral and multi-lateral debt relief if the President certifies to Congress that rule of law has been restored in Zimbabwe, including subordination of law enforcement organizations to the civilian government, that conditions for free and fair elections exist, that a credible program of land reform has been put in place, and that the government of Zimbabwe is adhering to agreements to withdraw its troops from the Democratic Republic

of Congo. No new sanctions are imposed on the government, but the legislation does very wisely ask the administration to look into personal sanctions for high level members of the Zimbabwean government and their families, such as travel bans and visa restrictions.

The actions undertaken in the last two years by Robert Mugabe can be characterized as nothing more, or less, than a shameless power grab. According to news reports current polls show that the leading opposition party has more support than Mugabe. No doubt this will cause an even more heinous crackdown on political opponents in the lead up to the elections. While I sincerely hope that Mugabe comes to his senses and allows for the presence of international observers during the upcoming presidential elections, I doubt that he will. Perhaps passage of this bill will send a signal to the government of Zimbabwe that the United States is serious about its position on the rule of law, human rights and democracy. The tragedy that has unfolded in what was once a stable prosperous country must not be ignored.

INTRODUCING ADOLFO FRANCO

Mr. MCCAIN. Madam President, last week I had the privilege of introducing Adolfo Franco, the President's nominee to be Assistant Administrator for Latin America at the United States Agency for International Development, to the Committee on Foreign Relations. The President has made a wise choice for this important position, and I commend him for it. I also commend Mr. Franco to all of my colleagues as they consider their vote on his nomination, and I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD, my statement introducing Mr. Franco before the Committee.

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

INTRODUCING ADOLFO A. FRANCO TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Adolfo Franco was born in Cardenas, Cuba. His family emigrated to the United States in 1961, when he was 5 years old, and settled in Cedar Falls, IA.

Blessed with wonderful parents and the opportunities afforded him in a free society, Adolfo has led an accomplished life of public service. And the good and faithful service he has given our country for nearly seventeen years is a splendid tribute to his own fine character, to his parents, and to the great civilization that welcomes the genius and industry of all Americans, whether native born or newly arrived.

He is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa and the Creighton University School of Law. He came to Washington in 1984 and in 1985 began work in the General Counsel's office at the Inter-American Foundation, where he served with great distinction for fifteen years as Deputy General Counsel, General Counsel, Senior Vice President and, finally, President of the Foundation.