

We urge you to ensure full budgetary support for these critically important compliance efforts.

Sincerely,

Max Baucus, Jeff Bingaman, Blanche L. Lincoln, Dick Durbin, Dianne Feinstein, Ted Kennedy, Byron L. Dorgan, Bob Graham, Max Cleland, Jack Reed, Patty Murray.

TRIBUTE TO DALE EARNHARDT

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. President, it has been almost two weeks since American sports lost one of its greatest legends. On a Sunday, just like any other Sunday, millions of NASCAR fans watched the concluding laps of the Daytona 500 race. But February 18, 2001 is a Sunday that even those who were not at the race track, or glued to their televisions, will never forget. This was the day that we lost the person who many say was the sport's fiercest competitor.

I am, of course, speaking of Dale Earnhardt, a man who was aptly described as both "NASCAR's greatest driver" and "the Intimidator." As fans, friends and family continue to mourn his death, he is also remembered by labels such as "devoted husband" and "loving father" whose fearlessness on the track was eclipsed only by the size of his heart.

Adults and children alike are searching for the reasons why their hero was taken from them. Dale Earnhardt brought these strangers together, week after week, as a family devoted to following his career and celebrating his many victories. He became part of our lives through sports broadcasts and the media. He was only months away from his 50th birthday. He will not get to see his son follow in his footsteps and become a champion. But fans know that his devotion to the sport was so great that he was doing what he loved until the last moment.

A week after this tragedy, before all of the tears had dried, NASCAR continued with the racing season, but Dale Earnhardt was far from forgotten. The respect for this man was so great that drivers and crewman, men who raced against him for years, wore black, red and silver caps with Earnhardt's number three on them to honor their fallen comrade.

No one was ready to let Dale Earnhardt go. A man who had such spirit for the race of life as well as for the competition on the track will not easily fade into the past. His spectacular career statistics will certainly not let us forget and the way he lived his 49 years will be an even greater remembrance. He was admired in life and he will continue to be admired now that he has left us. He will continue to be a role model for drivers and fans alike. Dale Earnhardt will always be with us in our hearts, every time someone strives for greatness and every time someone takes the checkered flag.

TESTING FOR DEOXYNIVALENOL IN BARLEY

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I believe the Senator from Indiana, the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, is aware that barley growers are concerned about the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration testing of deoxynivalenol, or DON, levels in malting barley. Is that correct?

Mr. LUGAR. The Senator from North Dakota is correct. Identifying the presence of DON in malting barley is important because the presence of DON reduces the price producers receive for their barley. Malting barley purchasers are affected because DON can affect the characteristics of the products they make with that barley.

Mr. CONRAD. Many malting barley growers believe that current GIPSA measurement standards are unacceptable. When the Congress reauthorized the Grain Standards Act late last year, the Senator and I discussed these measurement standards. The Senate suggests that the Federal Grain Inspection Program Grain Standards division of GIPSA consider new technology that would allow for the more accurate measurement of DON in barley.

Mr. LUGAR. We also suggest that GIPSA consider ceasing the use of the "Optional Procedure," under which they measure to the tenth of one part per million, and use only the "Standard Procedure," where measurements are rounded to the nearest whole number.

MARCH IS EYE DONOR MONTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues and the public that March is National Eye Donor Month.

National recognition of Eye Donor Month dates back to the very early days of transplantation, when corneas were the only human transplants. Now, transplantations are common medical procedures by which people may give, so that others can live better, fuller, healthier lives.

National Eye Donor Month honors the thousands of Americans who, over the past 55 years, have each left behind a priceless legacy, their eyes. Since the first transplant agency was founded in New York City in 1944, sight has been restored to over half a million individuals by means of cornea transplantation.

Eye Donor Month is also about increasing public awareness of the continuing need for donors. Many people are still unaware of how easy it is to become an eye donor. All a donor needs to do is sign a card and announce to his or her family the intent to leave behind this special gift.

I am confident that if more Americans realized the true extent of the

need for transplants, many more would willingly donate their corneas, once they can no longer use them. More than 46,000 Americans will need cornea transplants this year. Thousands of researchers will need donor eye tissue to explore prevention and treatment of blinding diseases.

Our Nation's eye banks, non-profit agencies operating under the umbrella of the Eye Bank Association of America, have done a heroic job of restoring sight to blind people. Today, cornea transplantation is the most common transplant procedure performed, with an extremely high success rate of nearly 90 percent.

This incredible success rate is due in part to a meticulous screening process that separates out corneas unsuitable for transplantation. These may be used for research purposes in surgical training and medical education. So, while each donated eye is put to good use, such a selective screening process must be supported by a large number of donations.

Right now, there are simply not enough donors. We must change that. I want to encourage my colleagues to celebrate National Eye Donor Month by working closely with our Nation's eye banks to educate the American public about how they can help others to see. Let us all aim to increase the number of eyes available for transplantation, so that we may illuminate the darkness for so many of our fellow citizens.

FEMA'S PROJECT IMPACT

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I was dismayed and confused to learn that the President's fiscal year 2002 budget proposal would eliminate the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, initiative, Project Impact. I draw my colleagues' attention to this nationwide program that works with cities and counties to help reduce the destructive effects of natural disasters because so many of their citizens have benefitted from these successful partnerships.

The very first Project Impact designated community was Deerfield Beach, FL, which joined in 1997 in response to the devastating effects of hurricanes. Another pilot community, Seattle, WA, uses Project Impact funds to ensure an earthquake-resistant community by retrofitting school buildings and bridges, identifying zones of vulnerability, training homeowners, and reinforcing hundreds of Seattle-area homes. Seattle formed neighborhood disaster teams and brought in local businesses to help.

It is important to note that Project Impact is a major reason why damage to Seattle during yesterday's earthquake was minimal. Only last April,