Despite efforts by the Reagan, Bush and Clinton Administrations to persuade the CNMI to correct these problems, the situation has only deteriorated.

My colleagues, the Senator from Alaska and I have been patient. After years of waiting, the time for patience has ended. Conditions in the CNMI are a looming political embarrassment to our country. I urge the Senate to respond by enacting the reform legislation we have introduced.

## AGRICULTURAL BOND ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, yesterday, Senator CONRAD, and Representatives NUSSLE and BOSWELL helped me stand up for American agriculture.

Agriculture is capital intensive. As a family farmer myself, I know you can't put your love of the land to work if you don't have the resources to get started.

My colleagues and I introduced a bipartisan bicameral bill that will expand opportunities for beginning farmers who are in need of low interest loans for capital purchases of farmland and equipment. This legislation is called the ''Agricultural Bond Enhancement Act.''

Back in the early 1980s, I realize the federal government needed to do more to provide young farmers an opportunity to start farming. In 1981, I pushed for pilot projects to establish the Aggie Bond program. After temporarily reauthorizing the program many times I succeeded in making the Beginning Farmer Loan Program permanent in the 103rd Congress.

Current law permits state authorities to issue tax exempt bonds and to loan the proceeds from the sale of the bonds to beginning farmers and ranchers to finance the cost of acquiring land, buildings and equipment used in a farm or ranch operation. The tax-exempt nature of the Aggie Bonds provides a below-market interest rate on the loan made to the farmer or rancher.

The program has been very successful, especially in my home state of Iowa. Since the beginning of the program in 1981, more than 2,600 Iowans have taken advantage of this opportunity. Iowa's program has provided over $260 million in qualified beginning loans and the default rate has only been 1.5% of the total number of loans. I believe most ag lenders would agree those are very good numbers.

We have an opportunity to make the Beginning Farmer Loan Program even better. Currently, Aggie Bonds are subjected to a volume cap. That puts them in competition with industrial projects for bond allocation. This is the problem we would like to remedy.

Aggie Bonds share few similarities to Industrial Revenue Bonds and should not be subjected to the same volume cap. Insufficient funding due to the volume cap limits the effectiveness of this program.

The solution: amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt small issue bonds for agriculture from the State volume cap.

During the past three years the Iowa Agricultural Development Authority has consistently used all of the $24 million bond allocation it was allowed. Some beginning farmers had to sit idle until the next year to close their loan, or pay a higher interest rate if they closed their loan without the bond.

We cannot afford to stand by and allow the next generation of family farmers to lose out on an opportunity to start farming. The average age of America's family farmers continues to climb.

Deserving young farmers should not be forced to compete against industry for reduced interest loans.

The ''Agricultural Bond Enhancement Act'' will open the door to more young farmers and help cultivate the next crop of family farmers in the 21st century.

## KOSOVO REFUGEE REGISTRATION

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, we are all horrified by the human suffering that we are seeing every day as ethnic Albanians are being forced to flee Kosovo. The scope of this tragedy is overwhelming. Many of the refugees have not only lost their homes and other material possessions—they have been separated from their families and stripped of their identities, as documents were stolen and destroyed. While NATO and the United Nations are trying to manage the refugee crisis, there have been glaring shortcomings in their capacity to help refugees to be reunited with loved ones.

I am pleased the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is looking to the private sector for assistance, and that the private sector is generously contributing equipment, funds, and expertise to help ease this horrible situation. UNHCR currently does not have the technological capability to furnish a registration system which could log and issue identification papers to over 400,000 displaced Kosovars who have taken refuge in Albania. So Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard, Compaq, Securit World Ltd, and ScreenCheck B.V., have offered to provide a registration system that will facilitate the distribution of relief supplies and assist in the reunification of family members. Clearly, this effort will make a substantial difference in helping the refugees in Albania to rebuild their lives. While we automatically rely on government agencies to respond to such a crisis, it is encouraging to see companies step up to the plate and volunteer assistance they can provide faster and more efficiently than the public sector. This kind of private sector involvement should serve as an example for other companies to follow.

## UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN ISRAEL

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, yesterday, Israel marked 32 years since Jerusalem was united under Israeli control in the 1967 Mideast war. I rise today to strongly urge the President of the United States not to employ the waiver provision in the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995, but rather to fulfill the intent of that law by moving our embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Israel's capital city, Jerusalem.

The United States has diplomatic relations with 184 countries around the world. With only one of those countries—Israel—do we neither recognize the country's designated capital nor have our embassy located in the designated capital. That is as incredible as it is unacceptable. It is not only that Israel is one of our closet and most important allies. Nor is it only the obvious principle that every country has the right to designate its own capital. It is also that there is no other capital city anywhere whose history is more intimately associated than is Jerusalem's with the nation of Israel.

Jerusalem is the only city on earth that is the capital of the same country, inhabited by the same people who speak the same language and worship the same God as they did 3,000 years ago. No other city on earth can make that claim. Three thousand years ago, David, King of Israel, made Jerusalem his capital city and brought the Ark of the Covenant into its gates. Ever since, Jerusalem has been the cultural, spiritual, and religious center of the Jewish people. Twenty-five hundred years ago an anonymous Jewish psalmist living in forced exile wrote the following words: ''By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and wept when we remembered Zion . . . If I forget the O Jerusalem, may my right hand lose its cunning; may my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember thee, If I do not set Jerusalem above my chief joy.''

Jerusalem has been a capital city of an independent country only three times in its history, and all three were under Jewish sovereignty: under the four hundred year rule of the House of Davids, under the restored Jewish commonwealth following the period of Babylonian exile (586–536 BC), and now under the reborn State of Israel. Jerusalem has been the capital of no other independent state, nor of any other people. It has had a continuous Jewish presence for three thousand years, and for the last hundred and fifty years, Jews have been the largest single part of its population.

In 1947, The United Nations General Assembly passed the Partition Resolution for Palestine to partition what is today Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza into what was supposed to become a Jewish state and a Palestinian Arab state. In the resolution, Jerusalem was to have been an international city under UN auspices. The Jewish community of Palestine accepted the partition