Missouri, Tom and Debbie Ritter, Warrentown, Missouri, Debbie Breden, O'Fallon, Missouri, Senator Gordon and Sharon Smith, Hope Marindin, Chevy Chase, Maryland, Doreen Moreira, Cabin John, Maryland, Sky Westerlund, of Lawrence, Kansas.

Doug and Mary Spangler, Kansas City, Vivian Robinson, Harrisburg, Illinois, Reverend George Coates, Eldorado, Illinois, Ms. Gloria King of Oakland, California, Becky and Mike Dornoff, Williamsburg, Michigan, Steve and Cherie Karban, Rapid River, Michigan, James L. Gritter, Traverse City, Michigan, Ms. Sidney Duncan, Detroit, Michigan, Anne Pierson, Lancaster, Philadelphia, Jane Sarnes, Lexington, Nebraska, Peggy Soule, Rochester, New York, Laurence and Jane Leach, Raleigh County, West Virginia, Judge Gary Johnson, West Virginia, Hays and Gay Town of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, David and Jane Zatz Redmond, Washington, Dennis and Shirley Smithson, Nashville, Tennessee, Anne Desiderio, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Francis Ann Mobley, Daytona Beach, Florida, Kurt and Stacy Stahl, Lake Oswego, Oregon, Sallie Olson, Lake Oswego, Oregon.

Ruth Ann Gaines, Des Moines, Iowa, Larry and Jackie Bebo, Berthoud, Colorado, Gary Cerkvenik and Kim Stokes, Britt, Minnesota, Aimee Oullette, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Bill and Brenda Baker, Redfield, South Dakota, Richard and Karen Butler, Faith, South Dakota, Reverend Ed and Diane Nesseslhuf, Vermillion, South Dakota, Debbie Hoffman, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Melvina and Louie Winters, Pine Ridge, South Dakota, Geraldine Bluebird, Pine Ridge, South Dakota, Scott and Val Parsley, Madison, South Dakota, Mrs. Brenda Edusei, Bedford, New Hampshire, Debra Klopert, St. Louis, Missouri, Jessica Dennis of Rosedale, New York.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Here are some examples from around the country. I will read into the RECORD just a few. First of all, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption has recognized the Freddie Mac Foundation of Virginia, nominated because of countless contributions to the promotion of adoption. In this year alone, Freddie Mac has donated millions of dollars to help fund programs for adoption and foster care. Their commitment and dedication demonstrates their unique understanding that there is more to a home than four walls. We thank the Freddie Mac Foundation for their effort.

I will read a few more brief entries to give an example of some of the people that were honored. My friend, the Senior Senator from Arkansas, submitted a family from Russellville, Arkansas, Lori and Willie Johnson. In an increasingly self-absorbed world, Lori and Willie Johnson remind those around them of the meaning of the word ''selfless.'' They are the proud parents of 17 children, 13 of whom are adopted and have special needs. Because of their love and dedication, these children have a family to call their own.

From Spartanburg, South Carolina, we have selected Fletcher Thompson and Jim Thompson, nominated by our colleague in the House, JAMES DEMINT. Having practiced adoption for over 25 years, they are rightly considered adoption experts. They place over 100 children a year. They practice law in a way that helps build families and brings hope to children and joy to parents. We thank them for their great work.

I would also like to mention, the Angel from Idaho—since the Senior Senator from that State was on the floor earlier speaking about the important mining issue,—as Co-chair of the Congressional Coalition he nominated Earl and Judy Priest from Caldwell, Idaho. For over 25 years, the Priests have opened their hearts and home to children of all ages and abilities. They are parents of five children, three of whom are adopted. In addition, they have fostered 160 other children.

Hays and Gay Town, from my own home State of Louisiana, founded and personally funded an agency that has placed over 200 children. They have also reached out to help young mothers in crisis.

There are many examples, from California to New York to Louisiana to Michigan. There have been examples of judges, attorneys, parents who have adopted children, advocates in the community, agencies, who are really contributing to making our goal of finding a home for every child in America and the world a reality.

In closing, I would like to remind my colleagues, of several pieces of pending legislation concerning adoption. First, we look forward to passing, with Senator HELMS' and Senator BIDEN's leadership, the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption. This treaty will, for the first time, lay out a framework for international adoption. Mr. Chairman, as a lawyer and a former prosecutor, you most certainly know the importance of laying out a legal framework to prevent fraud and abuse, reduce costs and make the process easier for families adopting abroad. Together with Senator ABRAHAM, I have introduced the Adoption Awareness Act to fund a nationwide campaign promoting adoption. Through this campaign, we hope to encourage potential adoptive parents to open their homes to a waiting child.

Finally, we hope to be able to increase the present adoption tax credit from $5,000 to $10,000.

As you can see, there is a lot of work we have to do when we come back. I want to take this opportunity, once again, to recognize all of our ''Angels in Adoption,'' and to thank my colleagues for all the good work they have done on this issue. I look forward to working with them when we return to make the reality of a permanent and loving home real for so many children who need it.

Thank you.

I yield the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

BYRD-McCONNELL MINING AMENDMENT

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I think we all owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the senior Senator from West Virginia.

What we have now is a situation concerning mining in the U.S. where a crucial decision is either going to be made to maintain an atmosphere where mining can continue or through the prevailing attitude within the Clinton administration to simply drive this industry offshore.

The Clinton administration, by its actions, evidently opposes the working people of America who are involved in mining.

Those opposing Senator BYRD's proposal basically are destroying the entire coal industry which exists west of the Mississippi—the mine workers whose jobs depend on that industry, the railroad workers, the barge men, and the truck drivers.

I think it is important to note that Senator BYRD's amendment directs the application of the Clean Water Act to be returned to the way it was at the beginning of October of this year.

Senator BYRD's amendment does not change the law. It does not change any practice that has been followed over the years. It is our job to change the law—not the White House and not the courts.

Senator BYRD's amendment gives the Congress and the Federal agencies time to apply existing law without destroying the coal mining industry of this country—time to apply the law, or make such adjustments that are necessary in a way that protects the environment, the coal mining industry, and all those who depend upon that industry for their well-being.

We are looking for a balance. The administration's proposal throws this out of balance.

The amendment goes further. There are two additional issues involved.

One deals with the recent Solicitor's opinion that would throw out 127 years of precedent on the size of mill sites—only 5 acres per claim, if followed through with, this would make mining on public lands absolutely impossible.

I do not know how many Members have an idea about what it takes to make up a mine. The mine needs a mill site, grinding and crushing facilities, shops, processing plants, tailings disposal, headquarters, a water plant, parking lots, and roads. This simply cannot fit on the space provided within the 5-acre mill site per claim. It simply can't be done. This is how they propose to eliminate mining. In my State of Alaska, we would not have a new mine developed, nor could we.

You are depriving us and this country the right to produce minerals from the rich resources we have.

Make no mistake; the Solicitor wrote the opinion to end mining in the West, to drive mining offshore, to drive the jobs offshore, and to drive the dollars offshore.

The provision in this amendment would allow mining operations that have been submitting plans prior to a recent Solicitor's opinion to continue under the law and the precedent that was relied on the developed plan.

The second issue is also a simple provision that would require the administration to follow sound science for a change—not emotion.

The provision would limit the ability of the Secretary of the Interior to propose new hard rock mining regulations for those areas where the National Academy of Science found that there were deficiencies. Why not give science a chance instead of emotion?

Finally, the National Academy of Science found that State and current Federal regulations on hard rock mining sufficiently protected the environment and needed only a few changes to bring it up to current standards.

What is wrong with the objective of the National Academy of Science?

There are two simple provisions: One that provides fundamental fairness by allowing companies that have relied on 127 years of interpretation to continue while the courts sort out whether this new interpretation is legal; and one that requires the administration to follow and comply with sound science.

We are calling for fundamental fairness and sound science. But the White House, in its single-minded determination to end the domestic mining industry, seems to have denied us both.

I certainly appreciate the support of the senior Senator from West Virginia. He has a sympathy and an understanding for the needs of the mining industry.

Unfortunately, we have seen these differences of opinion between the West and the East. But we certainly now have a common interest.

There is going to be little for the domestic mining industry to celebrate this Thanksgiving.

The White House, to serve its environmental constituency and the aspirations of, I guess, the Vice President, has abandoned the call for sound science. They are appealing to emotion.

We need fairness. We need to meet the needs of the men and women who labor in our mines.

This Nation will pay the price as coal mines in West Virginia, mining sites throughout the West, and in my State of Alaska close. Good, honest jobs that built this Nation will be lost. Union and nonunion workers will join the bread line that this administration will leave as its legacy for the mining industry.

I yield the floor.

I thank the President for his patience and perseverance.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, my understanding is that Senator KOHL was seeking recognition. I ask unanimous consent that Senator KOHL be allowed to speak for 5 minutes after Senator KERRY.

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

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak with some mixed feelings because I have heard several of my colleagues, and I specifically want to talk about the remarks of Senator BYRD and Senator ROCKEFELLER for whom I have a tremendous amount of respect. I know when they speak about miners, they speak from their hearts, and they speak from their souls.

I haven't looked at the specific wording of the amendment. But I want to raise some questions, if this amendment comes to a vote. I will look at the amendment and then decide.

But I think I heard some of my colleagues trivialize this question. Just looking at it from another very important point of view, I can say that I have spent a considerable amount of time in eastern Kentucky. That is where my wife's family is from. I spent some time years ago with an organization called ''Save Our Cumberland Mountains'' in east Tennessee.

When my colleagues come to the floor and talk about this as saving some exotic species, they are not talking about what I have seen with strip mining. What I have seen with strip mining in east Tennessee and east Kentucky is a situation where, first of all, the coal mining companies came to the region and took an awful lot of the wealth, and then they left an awful lot of the people poor.

But one of the things people had was their streams, rivers, and their creeks. They had the outdoors, and the land that they loved.

I want to say to my colleagues that when you take the tops off these mountains with the strip mining as opposed to deep mining, and you let the leftover rock and earth get dumped into the adjacent valleys and bury or pollute streams, it raises a big question.

Again, I say, in deference to my colleagues, that I know what they are saying. We will have a chance to analyze this and then decide how to vote.

But I do not believe this is a trivial question at all. I have seen communities ravaged by this strip mining. I have seen courageous people who have lived in the mountains their whole lives speak up. So I want to speak up by raising this question on the floor of the Senate.

I also want to say to my colleague, Senator BYRD—and others—who, as I said, from his heart cares about the miners, that when I hear some of my colleagues talk about the miners, I hope there will be equal concern for the miners in east Kentucky when they don't have the unions. Right now, they can't see 6 inches in front of them because of the coal dust level. I hope we will have the concern for the health and safety of the miners. When I hear speakers on the floor, I hope we will have the concern on raising wages; I hope we will have concern for civilized working conditions; and I hope we will have a concern for the right of miners and other people to be able to organize and bargain collectively.

When I hear about the President's trip to Hazard, KY, where is the concern for poverty? I hope we will also see the same kind of commitment to health care, to education, to affordable child care, to economic development, and all of the rest.

It is a little bit too much to hear some colleagues frame this debate in these terms given this broader context.

It is a difficult question. I said to Senator BYRD earlier I have not looked at the specific amendment yet. I will do that. But I don't want any Senator to come to the floor and act as if there isn't some question—again, the Senator can clear this up for me—as to whether or not, given section 404 of the Clean Water Act, we are or are not creating a loophole. That is a terribly important question for me to resolve before a final vote on the issue.

Mr. BYRD. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I am happy to yield to the Senator.

Mr. BYRD. The distinguished Senator has mentioned my name. The word ''waste'' has been used. The newspapers have repeatedly used the word ''waste,'' saying this amendment that I am sponsoring is to let coal companies continue to dump their waste into the streams.

As to the use of the term ''waste,'' the Clean Water Act, section 404, governs the disposal of ''dredged and fill'' materials into waters of the United States. Excess material from coal mines has always been regulated in this fashion as ''dredged and fill'' material under section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Judge Hayden in West Virginia, however, determined that excess material from coal mines is ''waste'' and, as such, could not be disposed of in valley fills.

For 20 years, the stream buffer zone regulation has not been interpreted as preventing the disposal of excess material from coal mines into streams. Rather, Congress relied on the Clean Water Act to govern this activity.

I thank the distinguished Senator for yielding.

I ask unanimous consent Mr. SHELBY be added as a cosponsor to the amendment.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator from Minnesota has expired. The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

GRATITUDE TO JEANETTE BOONE SMITH

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I want to share with all of my colleagues, particularly with the citizens of Massachusetts, the deepest sense of appreciation I have for the longest serving member of my staff, someone I have been privileged to have work with me since I entered elective office in 1982. Jeanette Boone Smith is leaving my staff after serving all of that time, since 1982, both in the Lieutenant Governor's Office of Massachusetts and in