

of acres of agriculture as possible Superfund sites would be too heavy a burden for the EPA to carry. Including agriculture within Superfund takes away from Superfund's initial, worthy mission.

As I stated earlier, I am disappointed that the Superfund amendment was stripped from this report after having passed the Senate. I fully intend to bring this item up next year and I am currently looking for ways to move this legislation. This needs to happen for our farmers and ranchers.

PROTECTING OUR HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, despite the potential threat from terrorists armed with easily accessible powerful firearms, Congress still has taken no action to require Federal registration of .50 caliber sniper rifles. We must do more to protect our families and communities.

The .50 caliber sniper rifle is a favorite weapon of militaries around the world and is also among the most powerful weapons legally available to private individuals in the United States. Published reports indicate that .50 caliber sniper rifles are capable of accurately hitting a target more than 1,500 yards away with a bullet measuring a half inch in diameter. In addition, these thumb-size bullets come in armor-piercing, incendiary, and explosive varieties that can easily punch through aircraft fuselages, fuel tanks, and engines. Currently, these highly destructive sniper rifles, which have no sporting purpose, are subject to only minimal Federal regulation and are treated the same as other long rifles, including shotguns, hunting rifles, and smaller target rifles.

In August, the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association adopted a resolution in support of "Federal, State, and territorial laws that would restrict the sale, distribution, transfer, and possession of .50 caliber sniper weapons except to the U.S. military, and the National Guard and law enforcement agencies." The ABA report that accompanied the resolution states:

Despite its destructive potential, the .50 caliber weapon is sold like any other rifle. Under current law, one needs only be 18 years of age, have a driver's license and pass a minimal background check in order to buy the gun.

The U.S. Congress has acted to restrict various weapons including specific firearms and ammunition. Rockets, mortars and ammunition over .50 caliber size cannot be sold or legally possessed by civilians. Machine guns, sawed-off shotguns, imported junk handguns, silencers, guns made of plastic or otherwise undetectable by metal screening devices and some armor-piercing ammunition are currently banned or restricted under federal law.

I am a cosponsor of the Fifty-Caliber Sniper Weapon Regulation Act introduced by Senator FEINSTEIN. This bill would reclassify .50 caliber rifles under

the National Firearms Act, NFA, treating them the same as other high-powered or especially lethal firearms like several of those mentioned in the ABA's report. Among other things, reclassification of .50 caliber sniper rifles under the NFA would subject them to new registration requirements. Future transfers or sales of .50 caliber sniper rifles would have to be conducted through a licensed dealer with an accompanying background check. In addition, the rifle being sold would have to be registered with Federal authorities.

We must take proactive steps to help prevent terrorists armed with military style firearms purchased in the U.S. from carrying out attacks on innocent Americans. I urge the Senate to take up and pass commonsense gun safety legislation, like the Fifty-Caliber Sniper Weapon Regulation Act, to assist our law enforcement officials in protecting our homeland security.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR GIBB SR.

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, this week my home State lost a devoted public servant, an environmental pioneer, a good friend, and a great Vermonter: Art Gibb.

I first met Art when we served together in the Vermont Legislature where Art was known for his unassuming and gracious temperament. Art also established a reputation as an insightful legislator with an unusual ability to forge consensus. These skills impressed me and, for over 30 years, I frequently sought Art's wisdom and advice when I found myself confronted with difficult decisions both in Washington and Montpelier.

Though Art was remarkably accomplished as a member of the Vermont Legislature, he will undoubtedly be remembered for his work on the Governor's Commission on Environmental Control through which he helped save Vermont's beauty and natural resources from reckless overdevelopment. Gov. Deane Davis appointed Art to lead the commission, which became known as the "Gibb Commission," in 1969 as developers began exploiting lenient building regulations in an effort to turn a quick profit at the expense of public health and the environment. The Gibb Commission traveled the State, held public hearings, and worked tirelessly to draft recommendations to address this pressing concern. The result of the Gibb Commission's work was the bold and pioneering Act 250, legislation that has protected Vermont's waterways, forests, and natural landscape ever since.

Art's leadership of the Gibb Commission and his work during his two decades in the legislature earned him well-deserved accolades. Still, Art never operated with any fanfare. Despite his newsworthy accomplishments, Art was

never interested in seeing his name in the headlines. His temperament and fair and nonpartisan nature won Art the respect and admiration of colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Today, Art's portrait hangs in the State House, a rare honor and a fitting tribute for a man who left such an important mark on Vermont, both as a person and a policymaker.

When Art retired from the Vermont Senate in 1986 I noted, on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, "I am more than certain, however, that all of us in Vermont will continue to benefit from his,—Art's—wit, his intelligence, his commitment, and his grace for many, many years to come." This statement proved to be true, as Art remained an active member of the community and even served 12 years on the State Environmental Board after his retirement. Today, as we remember Art, I take comfort in the certainty that generations of Vermonters will continue to benefit for years to come from Art's devotion to the preservation and conservation of our great State.

I extend my deepest condolences to Art's surviving children Barbara, Dwight, Lowrie, Arthur, Jr. and Henry, as well as Art's ten grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. All Vermonters mourn with you knowing that without Art, Vermont would not be the beautiful and healthy place it is today. •

HONORING DR. BONNIE J. DUNBAR

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the extraordinary achievements of a gifted Washingtonian named Dr. Bonnie J. Dunbar. Dr. Dunbar is widely acknowledged as one of the world's most experienced female astronauts as well as a pioneer in biomedical engineering. In tribute to her accomplishments, Dr. Dunbar has been selected to receive the distinguished Women in Engineering Achievement Award for 2005.

Born and raised on a ranch in Sunnyside, WA, Dr. Dunbar took an early interest in space. As a child, she studied the exploits of astronauts like Alan Shepherd and spent her nights studying the sky for signs of passing satellites. By the third grade, she had already declared that she would one day be an astronaut. Encouraged by her parents to follow her dreams, Bonnie Dunbar attended the University of Washington where she received her bachelor and master degrees in engineering, an important precursor to her career at NASA. However, her journey to space was not without its hurdles.

Like a true pioneer, Dr. Dunbar worked to break down barriers. At a time when women were generally discouraged from pursuing science based careers, Dr. Dunbar both succeeded and prospered in her field, paving the way for countless women who shared her interest in science. After receiving her doctorate in Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering from the University of Houston, Dr. Dunbar went on to