Every effort was made to involve county commissioners, members of the public, and a diverse array of participants. Idaho leaders and agency representatives have done an excellent job of including everyone who wished to provide input.

In this case, we have had decades of uncertainty. This petition, as set forth by Governor Risch, has potential to resolve these disputed and difficult issues in a collaborative manner.

The petition is the result of thoughtful hard work intended to reach consensus on a very tough issue. Such decisions seldom provide any one group or individual with everything they had hoped or negotiated to achieve. In this case, it appears to be a fair petition and sets a path forward that will encourage all parties, including those who are in support and in opposition, to resolve their differences and establish Idaho's future road management policy. This is a beginning, not an end.

I commend Governor Risch and his team for their efforts and render my support in behalf of their earnest and diligent effort.

ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of H.R. 4766, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006, which was passed by the House of Representatives on September 27, 2006, and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. This legislation reauthorizes the Native American Programs Act of 1974 through the year 2012 and provides a grant program to ensure the survival and vitality of Native-American languages through such programs as language nests, survival schools, and language restoration programs, in addition to programs currently funded by the ANA grants for language preservation. I am asking the Senate to pass the bill as passed by the House of Representatives. However, I understand that Dr. COBURN has a question about the intent of this bill in respect to a particular matter and would like to engage in a colloquy for the purpose of clarifying that intent.

Mr. COBURN. I rise for the purpose of engaging Senator MCCAIN, who is managing H.R. 4766, in a colloquy over a certain aspect of the bill. Senator MCCAIN, as the chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, to which this bill has been referred, and as the bill's manager in the Senate, I would like to know if it is the intent of this legislation that the Administration for native Americans, in administering the provisions of this bill, require that grants for Native language survival schools requite parental permission for the student to participate in the program and also that the students participating in the program demonstrate adequate progress in English proficiency according to grade level?

Mr. MCCAIN. The Senator from Oklahoma is correct. That is the intent of the bill.

ENDING THE TRADE IN CONFLICT DIAMONDS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, this week marks the opening of a film that has already gotten a lot of attention, Warner Brothers' ''Blood Diamond.'' Many will flock to theaters to see this Hollywood blockbuster, but I hope these audiences will remember more than the celebrities and action sequences.

So-called blood diamonds finance criminal activity that threatens the lives and environments of civilians, the stability of communities and countries, and national, regional, and international security. Innocent citizens, many of them children, are forced to mine the gems in hazardous conditions while rebel groups reap large profits, which are used to pay for weapons that breed brutal violence. In the past decade, the sale of blood diamonds fuelled civil wars resulting in over 4 million deaths and the displacement of millions of people in Angola, Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and now in Ivory Coast.

In 2003, Congress passed the Clean Diamond Trade Act, which sought to ensure that the United States does not participate in the conflict diamond trade by prohibiting the importation of diamonds from countries that fail to implement a clearly articulated system of controls on rough diamonds. It was designed to implement the multinational Kimberley Process scheme launched earlier that year by 70 governments and the global diamond industry, which requires governments to certify that diamond shipments through their countries are conflict-free. The scheme's objectives are to: (1) stem the flow of rough diamonds used by rebels to finance armed conflict; and (2) protect the legitimate diamond industry, upon which several African countries depend for their economic and social development.

A 3-year review of Kimberley Process implementation held earlier this month in Botswana revealed that while important progress has been made, serious loopholes remain and must be closed to stop diamonds from funding conflict in Africa and elsewhere. This meeting comes on the heels of a U.N. report which found that $23 million in conflict diamonds from Ivory Coast are being sold around the world, and that diamonds continue to cause instability and brutal human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

As the largest consumer of diamonds in the world and a strong advocate for transparency and human rights, the U.S. should be setting an example by ensuring that its domestic certification system is effective and by working to strengthen the Kimberley Process. Just 2 months ago, however, the U.S. Government Accountability Office released an in-depth study that revealed blood diamonds may be entering the United States due to poor enforcement of the Clean Diamond Trade Act and a failure by the U.S. diamond industry to abide by its promise to police itself in support of the Kimberley Process.

The 2003 Clean Diamond Act commissioned this GAO study to identify areas for improvement in domestic and international implementation of the Kimberley Process scheme, so it is now Congress's responsibility to ensure that the responsible government agencies and departments act upon the report's recommendations.

The GAO reports that the U.S. does not inspect rough diamond imports or exports and so must rely on importers to confirm the legality of their wares. Official statistics show an excess of diamond exports over imports of 300,000 carats last year that cannot be accounted for, suggesting that some diamonds are entering the U.S. through informal channels. Clearly, existing U.S. controls are not strong enough and are insufficiently enforced. Similarly, the GAO study finds that implementation of the Kimberley Process scheme in Africa is severely constrained by the limited capacity and resources of these countries and the need to harmonize diamond trade and certification policies among these and other countries in the region.

Both to discourage the mining and sale of blood diamonds and to promote legitimate diamond trade, the United States must initiate regular, independent, and systematic monitoring of diamond imports and exports. The American diamond industry must also adopt and enforce a credible system to make sure that companies are verifiably adhering to the scheme and responsibly sourcing diamonds. In addition to conducting oversight of these domestic activities, Congress needs to advocate and appropriate U.S. assistance for regional efforts to strengthen implementation of the Kimberley Process in Africa.

The release of the film ''Blood Diamond'' coincides with the holiday shopping season, and it should remind us all that much work remains to put an end to the illicit diamond trade that continues to fuel violence, finance criminals, and exploit innocent people and their environments. I remain committed to improving the Kimberley Process scheme at home and abroad and promoting active leadership by the U.S. government and the American diamond industry towards ensuring that diamond mining contributes to sustainable development in Africa, rather than fueling conflict by financing criminal activity.

CONDITIONS IN DARFUR

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I am grateful for the opportunity to join with my colleagues on the vitally important topic of Darfur and the entire humanitarian crisis facing that part of the world.

When we look at a current map of Africa, we are looking, for the most part, at national boundary lines that were formed by the arbitrary dictates of Western European nations during their primacy as colonial power brokers in the 19th century. Those lines were, essentially, simple longitude or latitude lines that had no relevancy, at all, to the social, cultural, or tribal structures that had existed on those lands for centuries. Suddenly, the simple, clean-cut decisions of 19th century Europeans have become, in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, far more complex than any diplomats in London, Paris, Berlin, or even Washington, could have imagined in those relatively distant times.

Darfur is serious. Clearly, it is not the only place on this planet with unspeakable atrocities and unbelievable conditions. People who once farmed wheat in western Afghanistan are now facing desperate consequences due to the confluence of floods and drought. There are countless people—women, children, and the infirm—in camps like Dadaab in eastern Kenya who are not only trying to cope with the political and military chaos streaming out of Somalia but also the natural calamity of floods bringing food shortages, waterborne disease, and other human heartbreaks to our attention. We cannot ignore these other tragedies. Darfur is not the only place in need of assistance.

But there remains Darfur. It is etched in our conscious because of the pictures we see on television, the stories we read in the paper, and more importantly, what we know to be true. The facts are before us.

The crisis in Darfur is an outgrowth of a decades-long struggle within Sudan extending back nearly to 1956 when Sudan gained independence from Britain and Egypt, resulting in an estimated 2 million deaths due to war and famine in the last two decades alone. Millions more have been displaced. In February of 2003, the conflict spilled into Darfur with tragic consequences when local rebel militias determined to challenge the Khartoum Government on grounds related to discrimination of ethnic groups in the region. The central government's response was to unleash a harsh policy against the people of Darfur, including use of armed militias against civilians. The U.S. Congress and the Bush administration pronounced these actions in 2004 as genocide.

In 2005, condition in Darfur only got worse. Attacks by the Khartoum Government-backed jingaweit against civilian populations continued unabated. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan announced that abduction of national staff of humanitarian relief NGOs had reached alarming proportions. In June of 2005, the International Criminal Court formally began an investigation into charges of atrocities in Darfur. And in recent months, reports indicate that atrocities in Darfur are peaking again.

Slowly, the African Union began exercising limited authority in Darfur. Further attempts by the United Nations to introduce peacekeeping forces or a similar presence met with continuing resistance from the Khartoum Government. Just last week, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union adopted a proposal concerning a hybrid force for peacekeeping in Darfur. The African Union will extend its mission for another 6 months beginning January 1, 2007, in order to provide additional time for clarification and implementation of how a hybrid force will be composed and deployed. Progress may be seen in these actions, but it moves very slowly.

To date, since the Darfur crisis began in 2003, an estimated 450,000 people have been killed and more than 2 million displaced. In addition, some 220,000 Sudanese have been forced into refugee camps in neighboring Chad, and an additional number are in refugee camps in Kenya. Even though the Bush administration has declared that acts of genocide have occurred in Darfur, such declaration has not resulted in any major shift in U.S. policy. A shift should occur. We must intensify pressure on the Khartoum Government regarding its policies toward Darfur, and we must firmly pursue the Addis protocols that were achieved last week.

As the current ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies, and during the tenure I hope to continue in the next Congress, I know that humanitarian food assistance is a very large piece of the solution to the crisis in Darfur. Under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture Subcommittee is an array of programs of importance to food insecurity—what in this country we once called hunger—such as Public Law 480 and reimbursements to the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust.

In fact, a little more than 1 month ago, my appropriations staff was sent on a mission to Sudan which would have brought them to within a few kilometers of the border of South Darfur. Unfortunately, the El Bashir government in Khartoum refused to issue them the appropriate visas, but they were able to participate with the World Food Program on an air drop of food over Southern Sudan that, at least, gave them a firsthand experience of the hardships in that country. They also met with refugees from Darfur in the U.N. camp at Kakuma in northwestern Kenya, where the original ''Lost Children'' of Sudan found shelter in the early 1990s. While at Kakuma, my staff was presented with the following written request by Darfur refugees:

OCTOBER 13, 2006.

The current situation in Darfur was not acceptable and every day getting worse and we Darfurian we have worried and we don't know how our future will be and what are you planning for us.

MUBARAK SULEIMAN,
Darfur Committee.

I have watched, and I will continue to watch with keen interest the developments in this part of the world and take to heart the charge that these things shall not occur ''on our watch.'' To the extent that I can continue to direct food aid programs in the coming Congress, this part of the world, and all the other parts in dire need, will have my full attention, and I will seek the support of fellow Senators when the time comes to make emergency assistance available.

HONORING HELEN CHENOWETH-HAGE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a former congressional colleague and a personal friend, Representative Helen Chenoweth-Hage.

Just weeks ago, our Nation lost a true American patriot in a tragic car accident in central Nevada. On October 2, 2006, Helen Chenoweth was riding in her daughter-in-law's car, cradling her baby grandson in her arms. The car was overturned, and she and her grandson were thrown from it. Helen held her grandson so tightly that he came away with minor injuries—but she was not so lucky.

I take this time to honor Representative Chenoweth and her contributions to Idaho and this Nation, as some may not be aware of how much she gave of herself.

Helen was born in Topeka, KS, on January 27, 1938. She graduated from Whitworth College in Spokane, WA, and started her lifelong career of public service. She ran her own medical and management consulting firm, which led to her job as manager at the Northside Medical Center in Orofino, ID. In 1975, she was appointed as the first woman to serve as the state executive director of the Idaho Republican Party. Soon after, she became the chief of staff and then campaign manager for long-time friend, First District Congressman Steve Symms. A close friend described the Chenoweth-Symms team as a ''fun and inspiring team to work with.''

After establishing herself in Idaho as a trusted leader, she won the Republican nomination to Idaho's First Congressional District in 1994. A strong advocate for term limits, she pledged to serve no more than three terms, if elected. Helen Chenoweth won the 1994 November election, beating the Democratic incumbent by nearly 11 percent. She was known as one of the ''true believers'' in the 1995 Republican freshman class and was one of the most conservative. She even made conservative grammatical choices, insisting on being called ''Congressman Chenoweth,'' instead of Congresswoman.

Helen easily won reelection two more times and was asked by many to run for a fourth term, but having pledged to serve three terms, she was true to her word and retired in 2000. Idaho Govenor Jim Risch is quoted as saying, ''When the six years were up, she could have easily been reelected, she could