

remediate and prevent widespread destruction from natural disasters.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Linn County has recognized this important issue by securing more than \$750,000 for the community health center and over \$284,000 in wellness grants.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf, but I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly one-quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Linn County, both those with and without disabilities, and they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Linn County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Linn County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

TAYLOR COUNTY, IOWA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Taylor County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$3.8 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be their many successes in taking advantage of farm bill and Housing and Urban Development funding for a variety of projects, including the construction of the new Cox Manufacturing Company facility, to purchase new machinery and equipment for the city, and to help create affordable housing for area residents.

Among the highlights:

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans.

Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Bedford to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that Taylor County has earned \$40,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the in-

novative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Taylor County has received \$368,950 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Taylor County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$25,000.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Taylor County has received more than \$2.3 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

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RECOGNIZING BLUE WATER TECHNOLOGIES

● Mr. RISC. Madam President, there are countless modern conveniences we take for granted. Paramount among those is the easy availability of clean water. Sanitation has been the single biggest factor in the doubling of life expectancy over the last 200 years. Most water we use comes from municipal systems, and those systems in turn rely on manufacturers to provide the filtration and treatment technology necessary for one of life's building blocks. I rise today in honor of one company whose contribution has aided in our continued supply of water—Hayden, Idaho's Blue Water Technologies.

Blue Water Technologies began in 2003 as a commercialized extension of an idea that was developed at the University of Idaho. After 5 years of research, the university developed the Blue PRO system, a better way to remove arsenic from drinking water and phosphorus from wastewater. From there Blue Water Technologies licensed the patent-pending process from the University and began several pilot projects. As their reputation grew, Blue Water Technologies earned a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study on metal and phosphorus removal. By 2005, the process was demonstrated to be effective at full-scale use through the tremendous success of the use of

the system at the Hayden Wastewater Research Facility. Within 4 years, Blue Water expanded its business internationally.

Today, Blue Water Technologies is an international industry leader, spanning six continents. Their customers include municipal systems and industrial facilities of all sizes. Providing solutions that are both cost-effective and environmentally friendly, Blue Water Technologies is constantly finding new ways to handle emerging problems such as wildlife being harmed by the presence of trace amounts of pharmaceuticals in their water supply.

Blue Water Technologies is home to a dynamic and talented team who possess the diverse backgrounds and specializations vital to understanding and adapting to the water needs of a varied group of consumers, both public and private. Their use of best practices is vital to the efficiency and sustainability of their organization and to the constantly evolving nature of water treatment technology. I want to thank Blue Water Technologies for their efforts in making our water safer in environmentally friendly ways and congratulate them on their continued success.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5777. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (74); Amdt. No. 3588" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5778. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (32); Amdt. No. 3585"

(RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5779. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (66); Amdt. No. 3587" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5780. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (53); Amdt. No. 3584" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5781. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (84); Amdt. No. 3583" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5782. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (173); Amdt. No. 3586" (RIN2120-AA65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5783. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Greenville, ME" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0025)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5784. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Sylva, NC" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0439)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5785. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Jefferson City, MO" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0587)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 12, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5786. A communication from the Paralegal Specialist, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Holdrege, NE" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0596)) received in the Office