

operate, and welcome prompt responses to requests for information and willingness to meet with Task Force staff on short notice to provide background and briefing materials. Moreover, Task Force Members emphasize the need for bipartisan cooperation as the Task Force works to arrive at findings and recommendations.

Congressional Support

The Task Force expects to benefit from the support of available congressional support offices, most notably the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT), the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), and the Library of Congress's Congressional Research Service (CRS).

Task Force staff have contacted JCT, which will provide a briefing in the near term to discuss the application of Federal tax policy in Puerto Rico, as well as individual, corporate, and other tax proposals put forward in recent years by stakeholders in Puerto Rico and in Congress. Staff have reached out to CRS researchers for updates on previously-issued CRS reports related to Puerto Rico and have scheduled briefings on a number of germane issues.

Offices and Agencies in Puerto Rico

As noted above, PROMESA specifically requires the Task Force to consult with the Puerto Rico Legislative Assembly, the Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development and Commerce, and the private sector of Puerto Rico.

Task Force staff have begun outreach to leaders of the Puerto Rico Legislative Assembly, and welcome any input and recommendations that they wish to provide. Task Force staff have also contacted the Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development and Commerce, and welcome input and recommendations from the Secretary and other officials at the agency. Similarly, Task Force staff have contacted the Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Health to obtain input with respect to the Department's Administrative Order No. 346. Consultation with entities in the private sector of Puerto Rico has also been ongoing and will continue throughout this process.

TRIBUTE TO THE KENTUCKY BANKERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to extend my thanks and congratulations to a venerable Kentucky business trade association that is celebrating a milestone anniversary of service to its members and its customers. The Kentucky Bankers Association, a nonprofit trade association serving Kentucky's community financial services industry, celebrates its 125th anniversary this October.

Founded in October of 1891, the Kentucky Bankers Association, KBA, represents State and federally chartered banks and thrifts. It has 185 member banks, 167 of which are headquartered in Kentucky. Not only do KBA's member banks provide high-quality service to the people of the Commonwealth, but they also employ more than 23,000 Kentuckians.

The purpose of the Kentucky Bankers Association is to provide advocacy for the financial services industry both in Kentucky and on the national level. The organization also serves as a fount of information to its members on the banking industry and acts as a catalyst

for internal debate and action within the industry and among its members. It also publishes an industry magazine to provide news and information to its members. And by providing loans to Kentucky businesses, they enable future business growth and spur the creation of new jobs.

KBA has served its members for 125 years, and many of KBA's member banks have also been serving their customers for a long time. The oldest bank chartered in Kentucky was established in 1835, making it 181 years old. And the average age of Kentucky chartered banks is 84 years old. Kentuckians who bank with KBA's members have counted on and appreciated their high level of service for generations.

I also want to congratulate my friend Ballard Cassady, the president and CEO of KBA, as he has served in that position for 30 years. His dedication to the KBA is equaled only by KBA member banks' dedication to their customers.

Kentucky community banks are integral parts of the local neighborhoods they serve. And the KBA plays a vital role in representing these community financial institutions. I want to extend my gratitude to the KBA, Mr. Cassady, and KBA leadership for 125 years of service to Kentucky's community financial institutions and their consumers. And I wish to thank KBA's member banks across the Commonwealth for their long-standing commitment to the people of Kentucky.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN BEL EDWARDS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I recognize Governor John Bel Edwards, who is celebrating his 50th birthday on September 16, 2016.

Governor Edwards is a committed public servant who has dedicated his career to improving the lives of Louisiana residents. A Louisiana native, Governor Edwards graduated from Amite High School as valedictorian of his class. After graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point 4 years later, he bravely served our country as an airborne ranger in the U.S. Army. Following his service, Governor Edwards attended law school at Louisiana State University, where he graduated Order of the Coif, the prestigious honor society for our Nation's brightest law school graduates.

In 2008, Governor Edwards was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives. Throughout his tenure, he worked diligently to ensure that the needs of Louisiana residents were met. His Democratic colleagues recognized his unwavering commitment to public service and his steadfast leadership ability, and they elected him as chairman of the Louisiana House Democratic Caucus.

It comes as no surprise that Governor Edwards has already achieved a number of accomplishments on behalf of Louisiana since he became the Governor of the State in January 2016. He has led State legislators in addressing

Louisiana's most pressing issues, including the State's budget crisis, historic flood events that have damaged more than 100,000 homes throughout the State, and several tornadoes that have impacted many of the State's most vulnerable residents. In addition to managing the response to these crises, Governor Edwards is implementing programs that are critical to the success and well-being of Louisiana residents, such as Medicaid expansion and major infrastructure development projects.

Governor Edwards is married to his high-school sweetheart, Donna Edwards, and they have three beautiful children: Samantha Bel, Sarah Ellen, and John Miller. I join the Governor's family, friends, and the residents of Louisiana in wishing him a very happy 50th birthday. His dedication to Louisiana is commendable, and I look forward learning about his future success on behalf of the residents of Louisiana and all Americans.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to celebrate the bipartisan passage of this year's Water Resources Development Act. This critically important legislation will help keep our drinking water safe, move goods on Illinois waterways, protect communities from flooding and preserve the precious natural resources that are our rivers, streams, and wetlands.

Our Nation's water infrastructure plays a vital role in protecting our communities from flooding, safeguarding our drinking water from contamination, and advancing commerce through the safe and secure movement of goods. The safety of the American people and the stability of the American economy depend on the reliability of our water infrastructure.

But our water infrastructure in the U.S. is aging and overburdened, and investment is not keeping up with the need. We have locks and dams that are crumbling, in serious need of maintenance and upgrades, and lead water pipes that are long overdue for replacement. What happened in Flint has shown just how vulnerable our water infrastructure is and why investing in it is so important. That is why I was proud to support the passage of the Water Resource and Development Act of 2016, which makes significant investments in water infrastructure around the country.

I am proud to report that much of the water infrastructure funding in this bill will benefit my home State of Illinois. The bill authorizes a final feasibility report on phase II of the Des Plaines River Project, which will provide flood risk management and environmental restoration on the Upper Des Plaines River and tributaries in Illinois and Wisconsin. The bill also includes language that expedites the