

Not only do they produce excellent products, Cabot's farm families are leaders of sustainability. They have worked to strengthen green farming practices, some of which provide Vermont families with electricity, and even their own electricity processing plant. They have made continuous efforts to create more sustainable practices, from conserving water to installing solar panels. Cabot and their members have been awarded prestigious honors, such as U.S. Dairy Sustainability Awards and New England Green Pastures Award for Outstanding Dairy Farm of the Year. Cabot has recently been classified as a B Corporation, the first dairy cooperative to achieve that certification, which shows the strong commitment they have to being a socially and environmentally responsible business.

I have had the pleasure to work with Cabot, creating lasting memories and an incredible working relationship that has supported the dairy industry in Vermont and the entire country. I am privileged to host Cabot at my annual Taste of Vermont event, and guests of the reception are often greeted by the distinct Cabot plaid upon entering the Kennedy Caucus Room on Capitol Hill.

As a Vermonter, I am proud of the incredible service Cabot, its leaders, and their farmers provide for our State, our economy, and the larger dairy industry. Cabot truly represents the essence, values, and traditions of what makes Vermont special. I congratulate Cabot and their dairy farmers on 100 years of hard work and success.

RECOGNIZING 14TH STAR BREWERY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to celebrate the success of a Vermont entrepreneur and small business owner, Steve Gagner, of 14th Star Brewery. Started in 2012, 14th Star Brewery began in a hand-built brew house in St. Albans, VT, with beer brewed in repurposed maple sap collection tanks. Under the leadership of the team he has assembled, the company has grown immensely since then, increasing their staff to 24 and moving to a new location where they are expected to produce over 8,000 barrels of craft beer by year-end. 14th Star has become widely popular throughout Vermont and distributes to six nearby States.

The creation of this Vermont brewery, however, began on the battlefields of Afghanistan. The founders of 14th Star, Steve Gagner and Matt Kehaya, served in Afghanistan with the Vermont Army National Guard. During their deployment, they drafted the business plan for their dream company on the back of a notebook. Even as the business has grown dramatically, Steve continues to serve in the Vermont Army National Guard and has been named commanding officer of the Army Mountain Warfare School in Jericho, VT. Steve was deployed for two combat tours and is a two-time

Bronze Star recipient. He also teaches the next generation of leaders as an assistant professor at Norwich University.

Named after Vermont's status as the 14th State to join the Union, Steve has ensured that 14th Star Brewery maintains a close tie to service of our fellow Vermonters. Taking its values from Steve and his close-knit leadership team, the brewery directs a portion of its proceeds towards supporting Purple Hearts Reunited, an organization founded by fellow Vermont Guardsman Zach Fike to return lost or stolen military medals to veterans and their families. Each June, which is PTSD awareness month, 14th Star releases a special brew, 11Bravo, and hosts an annual event to support the Josh Pallotta fund for addressing veteran suicides, in memory of his fellow Vermont Guardsman.

Steve and 14th Star are proud and devoted members of the St. Albans and Franklin County community, serving every way possible, such as raising enough funds to ensure eggs and milk were supplied to a local kitchen for an entire year. 14th Star's tireless efforts to give back to their community and the State shows how far a small business's impact can go.

Marcelle and I have enjoyed getting to know Steve and his wife Nicole over the years. During the Vermont Brewers Festival in 2015, Steve kindly gave me a tour of the festival and introduced me to many amazing brewers within our State. Marcelle and I have also had the pleasure of visiting 14th Star Brewery, where we were impressed not only by the creativity and quality of the beer but also the sense of community they have fostered by creating a welcoming gathering space in St. Albans. His sister and business partner, Andrea Gagner, who is the CEO of 14th Star, has also joined us in DC to participate in the annual Taste of Vermont on Capitol Hill for 2 years, and Marcelle and I have enjoyed spending time with her at the event.

I was proud to hear that Steve was chosen as the Vermont Small Business Person of the Year earlier this year. I have seen firsthand the dedication Steve has not only to his community in St. Albans but also to the veteran's community. He has an outstanding work ethic and I applaud him for all the selfless work to give back to his community. I believe Steve truly exemplifies what it means to be a small business owner in Vermont and he is very deserving of this high recognition.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HAZELETT CONTINUOUS CASTING

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize the success of another Vermont business, Hazelett Continuous Casting, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary of producing quality casting equipment and research. Hazelett is a true pioneer of continuous metal casting develop-

ment and research, growing from one man's dream into one of Vermont's most successful companies. As a fourth-generation, family-run company, it is fitting to look back on Hazelett's 100 years of public service and learn more about their history.

Hazelett's founder, Clarence W. Hazelett, worked tirelessly to design and develop continuous metal casting technology in 1919. Clarence's commitment was undying, his persistence to be a leader in this field led to his groundbreaking work being recognized through worldwide patents and technical publications. In 1924, Clarence established the first commercial continuous metals casting and processing company in the world, Hazelett Storage Battery Company. Upon his death, his two sons, William "Bill" and Richard, followed in his footsteps and took Hazelett a step further.

Bill took the reins from his father, becoming president of the company in 1956. Building on his father's foundation, Bill relocated the company to Colchester, VT, and renamed it Hazelett Strip-Casting Corporation. It was here that the family business grew into one of the world's leading continuous casting machine manufacturers. Bill went on to win the United States Small Business Administration National Exporter of the Year award in 2001 for his exemplary innovation and vision in building a very successful business in Vermont, boasting an employment of 145 people while accounting 70 percent of its \$23 million in sales to foreign business. Bill passed away in 2010, but his legacy lives on and continues in his son, David.

Today, with David at the helm, Hazelett has maintained their status as one of the world's leaders in continuous metal casting, expanding well beyond the Green Mountains. Hazelett's prominent presence around the globe is marked by the operation of their machines in 27 countries and the establishment of the only full-service Hazelett branch outside of the United States, Hazelett Trading in Shanghai, China. David's mission is clear: He hopes to offer the most cost-effective, environmentally friendly metals casting technology in the world. It pleases me to hear important Vermont values incorporated into Hazelett's work.

Hazelett has been an important contributor to not only the Vermont economy but the global economy. The Hazelett family and their employees have also helped build and support their home town of Colchester over this entire 100 years. A business of this magnitude in Vermont is a true gem and the years of dedication and hard work are exemplified through Hazelett's generations of leaders. I am incredibly proud of the continued dedication of each generation that has taken over the business. Congratulations to Hazelett Continuous Casting on 100 years of business, may your success continue for another 100 years.