

of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

3. A determination has been made that Morocco can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Morocco.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM WALLACE COVINGTON

Ms. SINEMA. Madam President, I rise today to honor the esteemed career and public service of Dr. William Wallace Covington, who is retiring as regents' professor of forestry at Northern Arizona University, NAU.

As founder and director of NAU's Ecological Restoration Institute, Dr. Covington's research has substantially contributed to our understanding of the conditions necessary to maintain healthy forest ecosystems. His demonstrations that selective thinning and controlled fires may mitigate more intense, destructive fires have undoubtedly helped save significant swathes of southwestern ponderosa pine forests, including those found in Arizona.

Dr. Covington was recognized as an Outstanding Teaching Scholar by NAU, and received the Biswell Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Fire Ecology, has testified before both congressional and State natural resource committees and advised a former Chief of the U.S. Forest Service and former Secretary of the Interior. Dr. Covington's dedication to novel research and evidence-driven outcomes has been essential in safeguarding our communities from uncontrolled fires.

I thank Dr. Covington for his years of dedicated work and public service on behalf of Arizona, the Southwest, and the American people.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter from Bruce Babbitt recognizing Dr. Covington.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JANUARY 26, 2019.

Hon. KYRSTEN SINEMA,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MARTHA MCSALLY,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SINEMA AND SENATOR MCSALLY: I write to support Congressional recognition of the remarkable career and public service of Professor Wallace Covington who is retiring as Regents Professor of Forestry at Northern Arizona University.

Professor Covington's work came to my attention back in 1993. At the Interior Department we were confronted with a rapid increase in large, destructive fires in the western ponderosa forest in the Southwest. In response to a proposal from Covington, the Department dedicated an extensive forest tract at Mt. Trumbull north of the Grand Canyon for large scale experimentation, and we began to fund his work.

What emerged from the Mt. Trumbull experiment was a new understanding of pre-settlement open forests that were maintained free of dense thickets and underbrush by frequent, low intensity natural fires. Following European settlement, these natural forests became overly dense as a result of fire suppression and over grazing. With so much unnatural fuel accumulation, forest fires have become more intense, widespread and destructive.

Covington's work at Mount Trumbull demonstrated that these forests could be brought back to a more natural condition by a carefully controlled process of selective thinning and the application of low intensity prescribed fire.

Covington has since taken his academic work to the policy level by organizing support for large scale restoration programs. The Congress, with leadership from Senator Kyl, has supported creation of the Ecological Restoration Institute at Northern Arizona University and comparable centers at Colorado State University and New Mexico Highlands University.

This work continues today with support from local governments and environmental groups. An example is the 4FRI project, a twenty year restoration project across several million acres in northern Arizona, managed by the Forest Service with support from the Congress and a broad coalition of state and federal agencies, local communities and environmental organizations.

Covington's work is an outstanding example of science in action under leadership from a dedicated public servant, forging consensus policy changes that are now restoring forests, and safeguarding communities from uncontrolled wildfire.

His work and advocacy has been of inestimable benefit to the American people.

Sincerely,

BRUCE BABBITT.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING PRESTIGE AMERITECH

• Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, as chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit, which drives our economy. This week, it is my pleasure to honor Prestige Ameritech of North Richland Hills, TX, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

When Kimberly-Clark Corporation closed its medical protective gear manufacturing facilities in the United States, Dan Reese and Mike Bowen sought to revitalize this critical industry. Since 2006, Dan and Mike have led Prestige Ameritech, which specializes in manufacturing high-quality medical protective gear. During the H1N1 swine flu epidemic in 2009, Prestige Ameritech worked around the clock to produce critical protective equipment, including N95 respirators, medical face shields, and medical goggles. As the epidemic subsided, Prestige Ameritech struggled as its clients returned to foreign products instead of continuing to support this vital industry. Dozens of workers were laid off as the company fought to survive.

Now, 14 years later, Prestige Ameritech is the largest domestic sur-

gical mask manufacturer, employing about 100 workers. They are certified as an FDA Registered Facility, HUBZone, and a certified Native American Owned Business. As a leading advocate of medical supply chain security, Prestige Ameritech supports development of the medical industrial sector in the United States. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, more than 90 percent of surgical masks sold in the United States are manufactured overseas. If a public health emergency arose, Dan and Mike have warned, disruptions in mask supply could endanger millions of Americans.

For over a decade, since the H1N1 swine flu epidemic, Prestige Ameritech has strengthened industry partnerships and warned government officials of the dangers of exporting our medical industrial capacity. As part of the Secure Mask Supply Association—SMSA—Prestige Ameritech works with domestically owned and operated surgical and respirator mask manufacturers to raise awareness regarding the importance of prevention and readiness by creating and maintaining an infrastructure for an American-made mask supply. For years, Prestige Ameritech and SMSA sounded the alarm about the vulnerability of American medical supply chains.

In response to the growing coronavirus outbreak, Prestige Ameritech has ramped up their daily production to 600,000 masks. Their work provides protection for millions worldwide, from healthcare workers to American citizens abroad. Due to increased demand, they have prioritized supplying hospitals and medical installations with personal protective equipment. The disruption of American medical supply chains has catapulted Prestige Ameritech into the spotlight, highlighting the vital importance of their work. They have been profiled in national news outlets including the New York Times, Washington Post, Wired, and CNN. Through this surge in interest, Prestige Ameritech has remained committed to their mission, driving home the need for a resurgence of domestic industrial medial suppliers.

Recognizing their foresight, knowledge, and courage, I am proud to congratulate Dan, Mike, and the entire Prestige Ameritech team for being named as the Senate Small Business of the Week. I look forward to watching your continued growth, advocacy, and leadership in this critical segment of our industrial sector.●

REMEMBERING WILLIAM FULGINITI

• Mr. UDALL. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great New Mexican, William Fulginiti, who for 43 years led the New Mexico Municipal League. Sadly, Bill passed away February 25, 2020, at the age of 78, surrounded by family and those he loved.