

the funding and have been counting on Congress to act. Small communities lack the economies of scale to spread the cost of compliance among their customers, even though they have to comply with the same regulations as large systems. The bill signed into law last month recognizes these differences by, among other things, providing a funding source.

I appreciate the manager's recognition of this need and look forward to working with them in the future to ensure that this new loan fund meets the needs of the Nation's drinking water suppliers.

#### YOUTHBUILD BUILDS FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to thank and congratulate my colleagues on the VA, HUD, Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator BOND and Senator MIKULSKI, for their wisdom in providing \$40 million for the Youthbuild program for fiscal year 1997. This amount is the same approved by the Senate last year for the current fiscal year, which was cut in half in negotiations with the House.

The Youthbuild Program gives young adults in our inner cities a chance. This program offers young adults ages 16 to 24 the opportunity to rehabilitate housing for the homeless or low-income people while attending academic and vocational training classes half time. Participants typically alternate a week on a construction site with a week in the Youthbuild classroom, where they work toward their GED's or high school diplomas. Youthbuild programs usually run for 12 months, after which graduates are placed in jobs or college. The programs are able to provide another 12 months of followup to assist these graduates to successfully complete their transitions from school to work.

The design of Youthbuild makes it unique among job training and community development programs. Youthbuild places a major emphasis on leadership development, with leadership defined as taking responsibility to make things go right for yourself, your family, and your community. Intensive counseling and a positive peer group provide personal support and an affirmative set of values to assist young people to make a dramatic change in their relationship to their communities and their own families. Thus, through Youthbuild's learning, construction, and personal components, students simultaneously gain the educational skills, work training, and sense of self they need to go on to productive, responsible futures.

In 1995 alone, Youthbuild programs helped more than 3,000 young people to become positive leaders and peer models in their communities. There are now 90 HUD-funded Youthbuild programs in operation in 38 States, and 56 organizations are planning to establish Youthbuild programs in their own cities and rural communities. Over 540 community organizations in 49 States

and the District of Columbia applied to HUD last year for Youthbuild funding.

Despite the program's success, fiscal 1996 funding for this program was cut from \$40 to \$20 million at the behest of the House of Representatives. The Senate bill had contained a \$40 million earmark. A return to the 1995 funding level is necessary if we are to maintain the achievements and realize the promise of this valuable movement. This program and the young people it serves—who also are the young people who do much of its work—need our help. They are some of the best that we have in this country and I am proud of their achievements and their drive to help themselves and to help others around them. They are a class act and the work they do is truly inspiring.

The \$40 million for Youthbuild for fiscal year 1997 will allow Youthbuild to enroll 2,000 more young people nationwide, directly helping at-risk youth and furthering the development of affordable housing for the communities in which they live. It will preserve the infrastructure of local programs upon which we can then build and expand while steadily leveraging increased local support. I want to thank the 38 other Senators signing a letter to Senators BOND and MIKULSKI requesting the \$40 million figure and I urge my Senate colleagues to insist on this amount in conference.

Mr. President, I would also like to offer my sincere congratulations to Ms. Dorothy Stoneman, the founder and president of Youthbuild USA, for her tireless and selfless contributions to the Youthbuild Program and to youth across the United States. She was recently awarded the prestigious MacArthur Foundation Award in recognition of her long fight to uplift the lives of youths on the margins of poor communities. She is a wonderful example of how individuals can really do good for others in this world and I want to make known my great admiration and praise for her efforts. This award is a testament to her hard work, and to the youth that are making our cities and towns better places to live every day. Her vision is inspiring and her enthusiasm contagious.

When people say that nothing works, when people say that poverty is inevitable, and when people say that there is no way to change injustice, Ms. Dorothy Stoneman is there to demonstrate that futility is not inevitable. She is a real life hero and I would like to thank her for her commitment to excellence. But what Dorothy Stoneman wants more than anyone's words of praise is the ability to offer to more young people Youthbuild's demonstrated ability to help young people take responsibility for themselves and their communities—to rescue down and out youths for lives of fulfillment and contribution. We help our country when we help these young people via Youthbuild.

ROUGE RIVER NATIONAL WETWEATHER DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND THE CLINTON RIVER WATERSHED

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased that the managers have made changes to the House-passed bill to allow the expenditure of \$725 million in already appropriated funds for the new drinking water State revolving fund in fiscal year 1996. I encourage the conferees to retain this change so that money can flow to the States and local governments as soon as possible.

As my colleagues may know, the Rouge River National Wetweather Demonstration Project serves as a model for watershed-basin management, but on a very large, very urban scale. It combines all the key components affecting water quality in the Rouge watershed, which feeds into the Detroit River and then into Lake Erie. Cleaning up the Rouge River basin will have a beneficial effect on water quality from Detroit to the mouth of the St. Lawrence River and beyond. The House bill provides \$20 million in fiscal year 1997 for this important project and I strongly urge the managers and the conferees to maintain that amount, if the final conference report includes project level recommendations.

Also, I would like to urge inclusion of approximately \$500,000 for the Clinton River watershed Council in the conference report. The Clinton River Watershed feeds into Lake St. Clair, which experienced severe pollution in the summer of 1994 that closed beaches and threatened the local economy. Nutrient loadings, sewage overflows, and zebra mussel infestation contributed to a very unpleasant, if not public health-threatening situation. Clearly, something needs to be done in this dynamic part of Michigan to ensure that growth is sustainable. I encourage the managers and the conferees to include the above requested funds so that an integrated and comprehensive watershed management plan can be developed and executed. Some of the methods and experiences of the Rouge watershed will be very useful in the Clinton watershed.

I look forward to working with the conferees on these items.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I believe that concludes the work on the VA-HUD bill for the evening.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS AND SUBMISSION FOR APPROVAL

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, pursuant to section 304(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2