

that we made in the last Congress, I believe we can draft a bill early this year that will address the remaining regulatory obstacles that exist to achieving environmentally protective and cost effective remediations.

I look forward to working, under Senator LOTT's leadership, on a bipartisan basis, with all parties interested in RCRA reform. I know that Senator SMITH, Chairman of the Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Control and Risk Assessment, shares my commitment to reforming RCRA. This is an issue on which everyone agrees—reform is necessary, and it can be done in a way that will save money without posing a threat to human health or the environment.●

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I am here today to join my colleagues, Majority Leader TRENT LOTT and Environment Committee Chairman JOHN CHAFEE, in expressing support for enacting legislation this year to reform the remediation waste provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

As many of my colleagues know, since I assumed the chairmanship of the Superfund, Waste Control and Risk Assessment Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over RCRA, I have worked to bring some rational reforms to this hazardous waste law. It is well known that hazardous waste cleanups in this country take too long, are too costly, and inhibit the redevelopment of industrial brownfield sites.

Since I first introduced RCRA remediation legislation in the 104th Congress, I have worked with Senators LOTT, CHAFEE, BREAUX, BAUCUS, and LAUTENBERG, with the Clinton Administration, state governments and members of the industrial and environmental communities to achieve a bipartisan fix to this confusing and burdensome law. Despite our best efforts, we were not able to come to an agreement before the close of the 105th Congress.

However, I am eager to press forward and reach a bipartisan agreement this year. There is simply too much time and money being wasted under the current regulatory process for Congress not to take action on this important issue. In fact, according to a GAO report, as much as \$2 billion per year could be saved by making certain common sense legislative fixes to RCRA. In addition to cost savings, cleanups would be accelerated by removing bureaucratic roadblocks. Such reforms mean a win for the economy and a win for the environment.

In closing, I want to reiterate my pledge to working with Senators LOTT, CHAFEE, BAUCUS, and LAUTENBERG to reach consensus on much needed reforms to the RCRA program this year. It will certainly be one of my subcommittee's top priorities.●

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW CONOR REPETA ON ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Matthew Conor Repeta, of Bedford, New Hampshire, on achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. This first-rate young man was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout on September 9, 1998, by the District Eagle Board.

Matthew began scouting at the age of seven in Eagan, Minnesota, as a Tiger Cub. He advanced through the Cub Scout ranks of Bobcat, Wolf, Bear and Webelos. Matthew joined Bedford Troop 414 in 1991. While in Troop 414, he was an Assistant Patrol Leader and a Patrol Leader.

I want to commend Matthew for receiving the highest award that is attainable in Scouting. For his Eagle Project, Matthew built a handicap ramp for a local museum with other scouts from his troop. This example of service demonstrates the ideals for which scouting stands. Matthew exemplifies these qualities for which all Scouts strive: Honor, Loyalty, Courage, Cheerfulness and Service. For all of Matthew's hard work and devotion to these ideals, he has earned this coveted recognition. As the father of two former Scouts, I understand the time and effort that is involved in fulfilling the ideals of being a Scout.

I know that Matthew will continue to be a positive role model among his peers, a leader in his community, a friend to those in need and an inspiration to all. I want to extend my sincerest congratulations and best wishes to Matthew. His achievement of Eagle Scout and significant contributions to the Bedford community are truly outstanding. It is an honor to represent him in the United States Senate.●

DEATH OF MR. VICTOR STELLO, JR.

● Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I have the sad duty to inform the Senate of the untimely death of Victor Stello, Jr., an honored civil servant who had a very great influence on the safe operation of commercial nuclear power plants and Department of Energy nuclear facilities.

Mr. Stello came from a family of coal miners in Pennsylvania. It was from seeing the terrible toll on the health of friends and relatives in the mines that he became convinced that safe, clean nuclear power would be a great boon to our country. He worked tirelessly throughout his career to make nuclear power plants safer and safer. At the Nuclear Regulatory Commission he rose through the ranks because his singular ability and forceful personality made it clear that he was a man who got things done. In turn, he was Director of the Division of Reactor Operations, the Office of Safety and Enforcement, and the task force that investigated the Three Mile Island reac-

tor accident. Eventually he reached the highest civil service position at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, becoming the Executive Director for Operations.

In 1989 because of his reputation for fixing problems, President Bush nominated him to be Assistant Secretary for Defense Programs at the Department of Energy. Despite the pleas of the Secretary of Energy, James Watkins, a group of antinuclear activists delayed his confirmation. Due to this delay and a subsequent serious leg injury, President Bush reluctantly acceded to Mr. Stello's request that the nomination be withdrawn.

Despite this set back, Secretary Watkins persuaded Mr. Stello to join the Department of Energy as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety and Quality, whose primary duty was to ferret out potentially unsafe practices in Department of Energy nuclear weapons facilities. With his forceful personality, coupled with Secretary Watkins' support and the high responsibility delegated to him by a succession of Assistant Secretaries for Defense Programs, Mr. Stello was able to break through previously impenetrable institutional barriers to effect real and lasting change.

Mr. President, it is because of Mr. Stello's tireless efforts that the Department of Energy reached a high level of safe operations, so that the Nation's critical nuclear deterrent would not become unsafe or unreliable, and that the facilities needed to maintain that deterrent could continue to operate safely.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in expressing to Mrs. Stello and the children our heartfelt condolences.●

BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of Montana's Bozeman High School marching band. On January 1, 1999, two hundred and ninety-eight of Montana's finest students performed in front of an estimated 425 million spectators in the Rose Parade in Pasadena, California.

Each New Year's Day, the world focuses its attention on Pasadena for the Tournament of Roses Parade and Rose Bowl Game. It's a celebration that is more than a century old complete with flowers, music, and sports, unequaled anywhere in the world. This is why it is such an honor to be chosen to perform on this festive day. I want to commend the accomplishments of our young folks.

The Bozeman High School Band program has a history of success in competitions statewide and across the nation. This is to the credit of Director Russ Newbury. In 1998, the band placed second overall at the Mountain West Marching Band Competition in Idaho with the Color Guard winning the show.