

money. I would remind my colleagues that it is thoroughly disingenuous to rise today to demand clean accounting practices by the private sector, while failing to ensure even basic general accounting standards for the federal government.

In closing, consider the thoughts of George Will on capitalism and ethics. Mr. Will wrote that a properly functioning free-market system is "a complex creation of laws and mores that guarantee, among much else, transparency, meaning a sufficient stream, a torrent, really, of reliable information about the condition and conduct of corporations. By casting a cool eye on Enron's debris and those who made it, government can strengthen an economic system that depends on it."

I am confident that, despite these recent abuses of the public's trust, our economy and our system remain fundamentally sound and strong. The vast majority of businesspeople respect legal norms and live by them. We will make our free enterprise system better for them, and for all Americans, by penalizing those who did wrong and repairing creaky enforcement mechanisms. The President has acted. The House has acted. Now it is time for the Senate to act, to return trust, accountability and transparency to our financial institutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CANTWELL). The Senator from Nevada.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for morning business with Senators allowed to speak therein for 10 minutes each.

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

DROUGHT

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the effects of a natural disaster that lingers across much of the west, drought. There is not a segment of the New Mexico population that will not be touched, in some form or fashion, by drought this year.

People in other parts of the country have turned on their television sets over the past few weeks and have seen the blazes of catastrophic wildfires that are again devastating the western United States. This may be the only effect of the drought that many are aware of. Let me tell you, the devastation is even more profound.

Ranchers are being forced to sell off livestock because they can't find enough water for them and can't afford the significant feed costs. Other agricultural businesses are being forced to shut their doors because the agriculture sector as a whole is hurting.

Most of the National Forests in New Mexico are closed to the public. This has added to a decrease in tourism. Let me mention a couple of specific examples. First of all, there is a small rail-

road, the historic Cumbres and Toltec Railroad, that takes people through a very beautiful part of the State. The railroad contributes to the tourism and economic stability of a very poor part of the State. That railroad has had to close because it runs through National Forest system lands and the fear that the railroad might spark and start a wildfire is a threat to imminent to risk. A second example is the river rafting operations that have been forced to cease operations because of the drought conditions and lack of river flows.

Municipal and private wells are running dry. In the City of Santa Fe, emergency wells for municipal water use are needed because Santa Fe's water storage is at 18 percent capacity, the spring run off is only at 2 percent, and current wells are pumping 24 hours a day. The City of Santa Fe is at a Stage 3 water shortage emergency, which allows outdoor watering once a week, but the City Council is considering going to Stage 4, which would eliminate all outdoor watering. To put this in perspective, the last substantial rain for the area was in late January.

A recent article in the New York Times accurately depicts the dire situation. It talks about how gardening in a desert is challenging, especially during a drought and at a time of mandatory water restrictions. The article went on to talk about people spray painting plastic flowers and artificial turf, while also using freeze dried plants to beautify porches and other areas.

Santa Fe is only one of the numerous municipalities that have imposed restrictions on water use. The article also notes that these restrictions are enforced by "water police" and that violators face steep fines ranging from \$20 for a first offense to \$200 for a fourth offense and stay at \$200 for each repeat violation.

A second article appearing in the Albuquerque Journal, referenced a "drought reduction" cattle sale. The sale took place last week on the edge of the Navajo reservation. While most livestock sales generally take place on the reservation during September and October, this year emergency sales are being held almost every weekend. Hundreds of cattle, horses and sheep have already died as a result of the severe drought conditions.

The article goes on to describe the severity of the conditions. "Stock ponds have gone dry, fish have died in evaporating lakes, and grass has disappeared. Sand blows across reservation roads, and the stiff bodies of dead cattle litter the land."

The seriousness of the water situation in New Mexico becomes more acute every single day. I reiterate that every single New Mexican will feel the impact of this drought in one way or another—whether they are selling off the essence of their livelihood—livestock, or losing daily revenues in other small business, whether they are actu-

ally having to refrain from watering their own lawns and washing their cars to looking for alternative recreational opportunities this summer, the drought and its devastation is very real.

There is a need out west and I stand ready to do what I can. It will be a monumental and expensive challenge, but one we cannot avoid. I ask unanimous consent that the two articles referenced in my remarks be printed in the RECORD.

[From the New York Times, July 8, 2002]

IN SANTA FE, IT'S TIME TO PAINT THE PLANTS

Gardening in a desert is challenging. Gardening in a desert in a drought is tough. Gardening in a desert in a drought at a time of mandatory water restrictions is ridiculous.

It's enough to make a hard-core gardener break out the spray paint and feather dusters. Why? To brighten the artificial turf and plastic flowers, of course, and to keep the cobwebs off the freeze-dried evergreens.

"Isn't this a hoot?" said Kay Hendricks, a 70-year-old interior designer who cheerfully pointed out a now-dead wisteria vine as she stuffed a plastic sprig of purple lavender into a pot of freshly painted silk red flowers. "A little red paint will make any flower a geranium."

In a whirlwind tour of her home, Ms. Hendricks showed off a bouquet of what may have once been silk purple zinnias, now painted red to match an American flag hanging on her garage; a potted four-foot-tall plastic cactus with fake thorns; and English ivy with fake dewdrops draped from another pot.

With drought gripping several Western states this summer, Santa Fe is one of a number of municipalities that have instituted mandatory restrictions on lawn watering, car washing and other uses of water. The restrictions are enforced by "water police," who can impose steep fines and even decrease water flows to scofflaws' homes. Phone lines have been set up so people can report wasteful neighbors to city officials.

Fines for illegal watering here start at \$20 and go up to \$200 after the fourth offense, and then stay at \$200 for each repeated violation.

"There is a guilt to watering things," said Mary Thomas, manager of the American Country Collection furniture store in downtown Santa Fe. She used to plant colorful annuals in pots outside her store each spring, but now she has 18 freeze-dried miniature evergreens instead.

"They don't have to be watered and we can paint them if they lose their color," she said. Ms. Thomas said her parents liked the freeze-dried trees so much that they bought some for their own patio.

The city is at a Stage 3 water shortage emergency, which allows outdoor watering once a week, but the City Council is considering going to Stage 4, which would eliminate all outdoor watering. Reservoirs that the city relies on for water are at 23 percent of normal capacity, and the last substantial rain was in late January, said Chandra Marsh, a water conservation educator and compliance specialist with the City of Santa Fe Water Department.

Not every plant here is fake or dead. Established low-water perennials are surviving, and hollyhocks and lilies can be seen blooming here and there. But, Ms. Marsh said, it is difficult to establish many plants without regular watering.

It seems as if everyone in this town is either adding a few silk and plastic plants to their yards, or knows someone who is doing