

Lakes where cleanup is virtually impossible.

We have taken steps under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to limit the amount of toxic pollutants entering the Great Lakes ecosystem, and some progress has been made in removing contaminated sediments from our regional waters. Based on information that was gathered in 1999 by the EPA, over 1.7 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment have been removed or treated at a cost of over \$300 million at the 32 Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes.

However, the General Accounting Office and others have reported that cleanup progress has been slow. With this legislation, EPA can aggressively deal with contaminants that were deposited into the sediments decades ago.

This bill authorizes up to \$50 million per year to EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office in order to cleanup contaminated Areas of Concern. This includes monitoring and evaluating sites, cleaning up contaminated sediment or preventing further contamination. Projects identified in a Remedial Action Plan would be given priority for this funding. The EPA is required to submit to Congress a report on the actions, time and resources necessary to fulfill the duties of the EPA relating to oversight of Remedial Action Plans at Areas of Concern. Under this legislation, funding will be made available for innovative research to improve our cleanup technology. Additionally, this legislation allows EPA to give money to local groups, States, or tribal groups for outreach and education efforts.

Again, I am very pleased that the Congress has taken this critical step for the Great Lakes, and I look forward to the President signing this legislation.

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Michigan and fellow Great Lakes Task Force Co-Chair, Senator LEVIN, in announcing that the Great Lakes Legacy has passed Congress. This legislation is vital in our efforts to address the slow progress in restoring the Areas of Concern, AOC, throughout the Great Lakes.

In 1987, the United States and Canada made a commitment under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to cleanup AOCs, but as the General Accounting Office and others have reported, cleanup has been slow. The EPA reported in 1999 that over 1.7 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment have been removed or treated at 32 Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes, all at a cost of over \$300 million. However, none of the 26 AOCs that are entirely in the United States have been restored to their beneficial use, approximately half of the sites have abandoned the remedial action planning process agreed to under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, and the EPA does not know how long cleanup will take nor how expensive cleanup will be.

The cleanup of these Areas of Concern is important both to human health, as well as the health of the ecosystem. With the legislation Congress recently passed, the EPA can aggressively deal with contaminants that were deposited into the sediments decades ago. Our bill authorizes up to \$50 million per year to the EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office to cleanup contaminated AOCs. This includes monitoring and evaluating sites, cleaning up contaminated sediment, or preventing further contamination.

Under our bill, the EPA will be required to submit to Congress a report on the actions, time, and resources necessary to fulfill the duties of the EPA relating to oversight of Remedial Action Plans at Areas of Concern. Furthermore, funding will be made available for innovative research to improve our cleanup technology. Additionally, this legislation allows EPA to give money to local organizations, States, or tribal groups for outreach and education efforts.

In closing, I want to thank Senators LEVIN, VOINOVICH, STABENOW, CLINTON, DURBIN, DAYTON, and WELLSTONE, as well as Representative VERN EHLERS and the other co-sponsors in the House for their leadership. I also wish to thank the Lake Michigan Federation, the Sierra Club, the Northeast-Midwest Institute, the Great Lakes Commission, and the Council of Great Lakes Industry for their contributions to drafting and passing this bill. It will have a lasting, positive impact on the future of our Great Lakes.

REMEDIAL ALTERNATIVES

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, I want to thank my friend and chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee for his leadership on restoring some of the Nation's great waters. H.R. 1070, the Great Lakes Legacy Act, will allow the TPA to fund cleanup of contaminated sediments at Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes. Because this contamination poses a significant human health risk, it is important that before cleanup may begin at an Area of Concern using funds under this act, there must be consideration of remedial alternatives and their short and long-term effects on human health and the environment.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I agree with my colleague from Michigan, and the bill requires the EPA to review the short-term and long-term effects of the proposed cleanup strategy before the project may be carried out.

Mr. LEVIN. Is my colleague aware that the current Remedial Action Plan process and the PA's Contaminated Sediment Management Strategy both consider an evaluation of the health risks posed by contaminated sites and the cleanup alternatives and that many Remedial Action Plans already include such an evaluation of the health risks?

Mr. JEFFORDS. I am aware that the current Remedial Action Plan and other processes consider an evaluation

of the effects of cleanup alternatives and that many Remedial Action Plans already include such an evaluation. Additional evaluation is not required when the Remedial Action Plan has already evaluated the short and long term effects of remedial alternatives on human health and the environment.

Mr. LEVIN. Would my colleague agree that the evaluation that must be conducted under this bill is not meant to be a redundant task upon the EPA?

Mr. JEFFORDS. I agree.

BAKERS CREEK TRAGEDY

Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I have sought recognition today to honor the forty U.S. soldiers who tragically perished in Bakers Creek, Queensland, Australia on June 14, 1943. Their deaths came as a result of the crash of a B-17C Flying Fortress, which proved to be the worst aviation disaster of the Southwest Pacific theater during World War II. More soldiers died on that plane from my home State of Pennsylvania—six—than from any other State. These six were as follows: Pvt. James E. Finney; T/Sgt. Alfred H. Frezza; Sgt. Donald B. Kyper; Pfc. Frank S. Penska; Sgt. Anthony Rudnick; and Cpl. Raymond H. Smith.

I understand that members of the Bakers Creek Memorial Association, USA, based in Orrtanna, PA, have located the families of Pvt. Finney, T/Sgt. Frezza, and Sgt. Kyper. However, the Association continues to search for the relatives of Pfc. Penska, Sgt. Rudnick, and Cpl. Smith to notify them of the specifics surrounding their loved ones' deaths. Only recently has the Air Force officially recognized this tragedy.

The aircraft that crashed had been operated by the United States Army Air Force 46th Transport Carrier Squadron, 317th Troop Carrier Group, 5th Air Force Division. The plane was one of the many B-17 bomber aircraft that had been removed from combat status and converted into transport aircraft. Shortly after takeoff from the Mackay airport in Bakers Creek, the B-17 lost altitude, fell to the earth in a slow and steady bank, and crashed in a ball of flames. The forty lost onboard included six crew members and thirty-five soldiers returning to their posts after being on leave in Australia.

Next June will mark the 60th anniversary of the Bakers Creek crash. I understand that Major General, Retired, Robert H. Appleby, former Commander of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, plans to lead a contingent of victims' families to Australia in observance of the anniversary. I applaud the members of the Bakers Creek Memorial Association, USA, including General Appleby and Mr. Robert S. Cutler, for undertaking this and other initiatives which keep the memory of the fallen heroes of Bakers Creek alive and well.