

fiscal mismanagement, and we cannot afford to defer tough choices to future leaders.

#### CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT AND THE FCC

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of S. J. Res. 17, the resolution of disapproval introduced yesterday by Senator DORGAN and a bipartisan group of Senators who are very concerned about the media ownership rules issued recently by the Federal Communications Commission. When the FCC issued those rules, it ignored the public. It ignored hundreds of thousands of public comments, and it ignored the calls of elected representatives for more careful consideration of these issues that are crucial to the future of information and entertainment in our country.

Over the past several weeks, many Senators have been doing what the FCC failed to do: listening to the American people. What we have heard is not applause for the new rules but great disappointment, and even anger. The American people are outraged by these new media ownership rules. They do not want new media ownership rules that legitimize eliminating local community voices in exchange for homogenization and uniformity. They do not want fewer and fewer choices, and less and less local control.

Those of us who support this disapproval resolution under the Congressional Review Act want to right the wrong done by the FCC. We believe that the people, not powerful media conglomerates, ultimately own the airwaves. The will of the people must be reflected in the rules that govern media ownership in this country. The strong public support for this resolution is demonstrated by the fact that there are already 35 Senators, from both sides of the aisle, who have signed a petition to bring this matter to the floor, as the CRA contemplates. It is now clear that we will have a vote on this matter in the Senate in the next few months. That is good news for the public.

The FCC's rules threaten to undermine the diversity of voices in the television and newspaper industries, just as diversity in the radio industry has been diminished. In a marketplace limited by only these new rules, our major media outlets will begin to look and act like radio, with absentee owners, standardized programming, and less local news and community involvement.

Thanks to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which loosened the ownership rules for radio, we have seen the future of media consolidation, and we know that it offers a lot more to big media companies than it does to consumers. In some cases, it can be downright dangerous. The five giant media conglomerates that already dominate the airwaves will expand their reach and further stifle localism and diversity.

By invoking the Congressional Review Act, Congress can wipe out these new rules altogether, and the FCC will have to go back and redraft them. We plan to make it clear that the new draft should include some of the positive proposals contained in the recent media bill sponsored by Senator Ted Stevens that passed out of the Commerce Committee. The CRA specifically contemplated that agencies may have to redo regulations required by court or congressional mandate. If this disapproval resolution is passed by the House and the Senate, the preexisting rules will again be in effect until the FCC goes back to the drawing board and promulgates new regulations that are not substantially similar to the rules that Congress has disapproved.

In promulgating these new rules, the FCC ignored its primary responsibility—to serve the public interest. But fortunately, the FCC doesn't have the final word here. The people do. It is our duty in the Congress to listen to the people and give voice to their concerns. By passing the resolution of disapproval, we will do just that. I want to thank the Senator from North Dakota, Mr. DORGAN, for his leadership and the other Senators from both sides of the aisle who are working on this. This is an important effort and I believe we will be successful in taking this action on behalf of the public interest.

#### PESTICIDE HARMONIZATION

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support of S. 1406, which is pesticide harmonization legislation. I join my colleague, Senator DORGAN, as an original cosponsor of this legislation. I would like to commend Senator DORGAN and his staff, the Montana Grain Growers, the National Association of Wheat Growers, and our Montana Department of Agriculture for their willingness to work out the gritty details of this bill. It has been a long and laborious negotiation process, but I believe we have come up with legislation that is better for the farmers of this country.

In my home State of Montana and many other Western and Midwestern States, we have faced a number of trade disputes between Canada and the United States. One of the most glaring discrepancies deals with pesticides. Chemicals that are sold for one price just across the border in Canada are sold at a considerably higher cost to American producers. Why does this happen you may ask? The EPA places strong regulations on chemicals used in the United States and therefore, the chemical companies believe they should hike up the prices to pay for their trouble.

The chemicals sold in Canada and the United States, in most cases, have the exact same chemical makeup. The same company manufactures them but often gives them a different name and nearly always prices the American

chemicals higher. The crops harvested at a lower production cost in Canada are now competing with American products. I am a strong believer in fair trade, but for free trade to actually occur, this problem must be addressed.

Currently, American farmers are facing a serious economic recession. Grain prices are the lowest they have been in a number of years and there does not appear to be a light at the end of the tunnel. Additionally, much of the West is looking at yet another year of drought. Also, fertilizer costs are skyrocketing with the ever-rising cost of natural gas. To top it all off, they are also being forced to pay twice as much for nearly the same chemicals as their foreign neighbors.

This bill would eliminate current obstacles and even the playing field for our farmers. The bill operates under a similar concept as the previous bills introduced, but many of the details have changed. The pesticide harmonization bill that is currently introduced, S. 332, had the States, not EPA, in charge of pesticide registrations. This new version has EPA in charge of the process. This eliminated some of the concerns of States, whose budgets would not allow these much-needed registrations to be completed. It also protects confidentiality of ingredients in the chemicals.

Our farmers and ranchers have been paying too much for their pesticides and chemicals for too long. From my years as a football referee, I learned everyone needs to follow the same rules to play the game. We need to make sure Canadian farmers and U.S. farmers are playing under the same rules. I believe this bill makes that happen. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this crucial issue to America's farmers and ranchers.

#### THANKING THE NATIONAL MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my letter addressed to Mr. Ron Davis of the National Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association be printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, July 16, 2003.

Mr. RON DAVIS, President

*National Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. DAVIS: I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the National Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association. Under your outstanding leadership, the National Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association strengthened the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps combat power, and ensured our military's buildup in Southwest Asia.

The MEBA swiftly activated more than 40 vessels of the Ready Reserve Force. Our nation's military, and thus our national security, is dependent upon the quick response of each MEBA member. Your members more than met the challenge and exceeded all expectations.