

causes cancer and other serious diseases. However, 40 years later, tobacco use remains the Nation's leading preventable cause of death. Tragically, tobacco use continues to affect the lives of millions of Americans, particularly plaguing our Nation's young people. Each year, smoking kills more than 440,000 people in the United States, and millions more suffer from serious tobacco-related illnesses.

Established in 1999 under the Master Settlement Agreement, the American Legacy Foundation has developed national programs that address the health effects of tobacco use. Tobacco prevention programs play a vital role in decreasing tobacco use among youth, and the Legacy Foundation's innovative antismoking campaigns have had a significant impact in reducing tobacco use, especially among our Nation's youth. As a result of their continuous dedication, millions of Americans are living healthier lives.

Unfortunately, the future of the American Legacy Foundation is in question. This year the foundation received its last payment from the Master Settlement Agreement. Because of this dramatic reduction of resources, all of the successes of the last 5 years are in jeopardy.

I am pleased to stand here, recognizing the achievements of the American Legacy Foundation. I know that my fellow colleagues will join with me in applauding the efforts of the Legacy Foundation and congratulating them on their fifth anniversary. I hope that they will also join with me in pledging continued support for this life-saving cause. Only with such concerted action can we avert millions of premature deaths and prevent future generations of young people from falling victim to the tobacco epidemic.●

MAINE LOBSTERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Maine Lobstermen's Association on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. Reaching this significant mile stone is a testament to the organization's positive message and the strong guidance of its leadership throughout the last half-century.

Lobstermen are symbolic of Maine's unique way of life. Harvesting lobsters is part of the proud heritage of Maine's coasts and the State produces more lobster than any other in the Nation. Each year, over 50 million pounds of lobster are harvested in Maine, adding several hundred million dollars to the State's economy. Lobstering is a traditional occupation which represents the values of Mainers and their deep connection with the abundant natural resources and beautiful coast that surround the State.

Maine's lobster fishery, though well recognized today, had very humble beginnings. According to the Gulf of Maine Aquarium, lobsters were once so

plentiful that they were considered a plain, dull food and a cheap source of nutrition for those living near the Northeast coast. Lobstering was done by hand until the mid-19th century, when trapping became more popular and allowed for larger numbers of lobsters to be caught. The fishery also experienced growth due to the advent of new canning practices, which enabled Maine lobsters to reach far and wide across the globe. As Maine's lobster fishery has grown, changing technologies and stronger regulations have put new pressures on lobstermen, while also ensuring the continued success and sustainability of lobstering as an occupation.

Founded in 1954, the MLA has promoted a spirit of cooperation among lobstermen, and it has fought hard to improve their way of life as Maine's lobster fishery evolves. Through the dedication of its membership and the strong leadership of its directors, the Association has been instrumental in keeping the grandest tradition of Maine's coasts both profitable and sustainable. Along the way, it has grown to a considerable size and now counts over 1,200 lobstermen in its ranks. The Association has such a large membership that it currently bills itself as the biggest commercial fishing industry on the East Coast.

As Maine's Senator and as chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries and Coast Guard, I am particularly dedicated to helping fishing communities maintain the quality of life which they deserve. I am extremely grateful to the Association for its tireless dedication to Maine lobstermen, and I thank each and every one of its members for being actively involved in their communities through their membership. I look forward to many more years of working closely with the MLA.

Again, I congratulate the Association on its past successes, and wish it at least another 50 years of growth and achievement.●

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

POM-365. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the National Defense Authorization Act; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 520

Whereas, the United States Department of Defense reports that 37,000 legal permanent residents are now serving in the armed forces, with an additional 13,000 legal permanent residents serving in reserve units; and

Whereas, of the 3,000 legal permanent residents who have served in United States military operations in Iraq, 14 have lost their lives in the line of duty; and

Whereas, the Congress of the United States, in recently passing the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, has extended immigration benefits, including citizenship and family protections, to noncitizens serving in the United States military; and

Whereas, this legislation provides for expedited naturalization of lawful permanent

residents engaged in active duty and certain reserve service in peacetime, times of war and during hostile military operations and for expedited posthumous citizenship in certain cases; and

Whereas, this legislation further grants or preserves the lawful permanent residence of noncitizen surviving spouses, unmarried children and parents of citizen and noncitizen United States service members killed in the line of duty: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania express support for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (H.R. 1588) and the protections it confers on certain noncitizen military personnel; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-366. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington relative to the Renewable Energy Production Incentive program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8031

Whereas, the United States Congress established the Renewable Energy Production Incentive (REPI) program in the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to provide direct payments to not-for-profit utilities for energy produced by new renewable energy projects; and

Whereas, REPI is the counterpart to the program authorized in the same act which grants private utilities a federal tax credit for energy produced by new renewable energy projects; and

Whereas, REPI has proved to be a valuable and needed program to encourage public power systems and rural electric cooperatives to pursue development of renewable technologies; and

Whereas, authorization for the current REPI program expires in 2003 and must be renewed by Congress to continue to assist not-for-profit utilities in the development of cost-effective renewable resources and to provide a measure of parity with the incentives provided to private power companies; and

Whereas, the effectiveness and vitality of the REPI program also depend on congressional support for annual appropriations to provide more certainty to utilities considering development of renewable energy projects; and

Whereas, reauthorization and an increase in federal funding for REPI could also benefit the Northwest by encouraging development of energy resources that provide significant environmental benefits; and

Whereas, the volatility in the western electricity market in 1999 and 2000 also demonstrated the need for the Northwest to develop additional generating resources and to broaden the diversity of its resource portfolio and REPI could play an important role in meeting those regional goals; and

Whereas, in calendar year 2001 not-for-profit utilities applied for almost \$30 million in incentive payments from the REPI program, but less than \$4 million was made available to provide incentives for these renewable energy projects;

Now therefore, your Memorialists respectfully urge the Northwest congressional delegation, the United States Congress, and the Bush Administration to:

(1) Reauthorize REPI for an additional ten years, with such modifications as are needed to provide greater certainty of payment and, therefore, greater incentives to qualified renewable energy projects; and