

## FPI REFORM BILL

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today I voice my support for the Federal prison industries, FPI, reform bill.

This bill would level the playing field for small businesses and provide relief to all Federal agencies by amending the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act to establish a Governmentwide policy requiring competition in certain executive agency procurements.

I understand the importance of keeping our Federal prisoners occupied, but not at the expense of our law abiding, American small businesses. As a Senator representing the great State of Montana, where small business dominates our economy, I have a vital interest in protecting business from unfair Government competition. Many times bids were requested from private firms that offered better pricing and more reasonable terms of delivery. I am for fair competition in the Government procurement process. Congress has a responsibility to ensure that no Government entity, such as FPI, has special status in the Government procurement process that forces Government agencies to buy from that entity. This contradicts one of the fundamental ideas in which this great Nation was founded upon, the ideal of competition. Accordingly, I provide my support to protect small business interests across Montana and America.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL JULIA COOK

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I would like to bring to the Senate's attention the retirement of a Colorado native from the U.S. Army, LTC Julia Cook.

Lieutenant Colonel Cook has distinguished herself with exceptionally meritorious conduct while serving in key positions of ever increasing responsibility as an Army quartermaster and human resources officer, culminating her career as a legislative liaison for Secretary of the Army, Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison. During her years of superlative service, Lieutenant Colonel Cook consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, resourcefulness and professionalism while making lasting contributions to Army soldiers and families, readiness and mission accomplishment. Lieutenant Colonel Cook's 20 years of dedicated and faithful service enhanced the soldiers and the units to which she was assigned and reflects the greatest credit upon herself and the U.S. Army.

Lieutenant Colonel Cook was commissioned a second lieutenant through the ROTC program, Quartermaster Corps, after graduating from the University of Colorado in December 1984. Her first assignment, following the quartermaster officer basic course, was to Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, from 1985 to 1986, serving as XO for an AIT company that trained 63Bs and 64Cs and as an as-

sistant brigade S4. She volunteered to serve in Korea from 1986 to 1988, distinguishing herself as tech supply platoon leader in 595th Maintenance Company, K-16 Air Base and as battalion S1, 227th Maintenance Battalion, Youngman. Following her tour in Korea, she completed the quartermaster officer advance course and was assigned to Ft. Carson, CO, from 1988 to 1993. Again she served superbly in a variety of positions, as the 4th ID DISCOM support operations officer; the S2/3, 704th Main Support Battalion; as commander, Company C, 704th Main Support Battalion; and as the division equal opportunity officer. She also deployed on a 6-month rotation to JTF-B, Honduras, serving as the logistics plans officer. From 1993 to 1997 she performed her duties as a soldier assigned to Headquarters, U.S. Army Materiel Command, AMC. She served in a variety of positions including, logistics operations officer in the Emergency Operations Center, staff action control officer for the Secretary of the General Staff, executive officer for the Chief of Staff, special project officer to Project Manager Soldier, and team executive officer for the Secretary of the Army's Senior Review Panel on Sexual Harassment after the Aberdeen Proving Ground Sexual Harassment scandal.

After graduation from the Command and General Staff College, she was assigned to the 21st Theater Support Command, Kaiserslautern, Germany, from 1998 to 2001. While overseas, she served as chief, Distribution Management Center, where she developed supply distribution initiatives for a command supporting over 65,000 soldiers in European-based units. Lieutenant Colonel Cook's work enabled the Command to reduce shipping costs through the air challenge process by \$2 million for the first two quarters of fiscal year 1999. She served as executive officer of the 191st Ordnance Battalion, Miesau, Germany, and was responsible for internal operations of a 600-soldier battalion consisting of a headquarters and headquarters company, an ammunition company, a quartermaster rigging detachment, and two explosive ordnance disposal companies, all while exercising oversight of a \$2 million annual budget. Lieutenant Colonel Cook finished her career serving with the Army's office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison from August 2001 to May 2005 where she was the staff action officer and legislative assistant to the Undersecretary of the Army and the Sergeant Major of the Army. She prepared the Undersecretary and Sergeant Major for all interactions with Congress including hearings, office calls, and phone calls. Finally, she served in the program division as the Army legislative liaison between the U.S. Congress and the Army staff for all issues related to logistics.

Through these assignments, Lieutenant Colonel Cook has provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous

critical issues of enduring importance to both the Army and Congress. Her actions and counsel were invaluable to Army leaders and Members of Congress as they considered the impact of important issues. Lieutenant Colonel Cook's dedication to accomplishing the Army's legislative liaison mission has been extraordinary. She is truly an outstanding officer who displays superb professional leadership skills and is totally dedicated to mission accomplishment in the highest traditions of military service, and I thank her for her service to this great Nation.●

## RETIREMENT OF BILLY ROSS BROWN

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, my friend, Billy Ross Brown, has retired from the First South Farm Credit, ACA Board of Directors where he served faithfully for many years.

Billy Ross became a director on the Oxford, MS, PCA Board in 1968 and he served as chairman of the board from 1975 to 1985. He was then elected to serve on the First South Farm Credit Board and served from 1985 to 1990.

He left the First South Board after being recommended by me and appointed by President George H.W. Bush to serve on the Board of the Farm Credit Administration and the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation in Washington, DC. During this time he served as the first chairman of the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation where he nurtured it through its startup as a Federal agency and directed it as it began to capitalize the Farm Credit System insurance fund. He was subsequently appointed chairman and CEO of the Farm Credit Administration where he served with distinction until October 1974.

While at the FCA, he undertook the first critical internal review of the agency, which provided him with useful insights and perspectives as he guided the agency through a difficult period of adjustment, following the system's financial stress in the mid-1980s. At his recommendation and under his direction, FCA undertook its first efforts at relieving regulatory burdens. He authored the agency's first statement on regulatory philosophy which reflected his commitment to cost-effective regulation and risk-based examination and supervision. It was his belief that any cost savings or efficiencies derived by the cooperatively owned Farm Credit Institutions would ultimately benefit the system's farmer borrowers and thereby benefit all agricultural producers.

After Billy Ross moved back to Oxford from Washington, the First South Farm Credit nominating committee nominated Billy Ross to run again for the First South Farm Credit Board. Billy Ross served again on the First South Board from June 1999 until his mandatory retirement in March 2005.

Billy Ross has served the Farm Credit System and U.S. agricultural interests for over 36 years. Combined with