years. In February, the administration proposed reauthorizing the law for only 5 years while cutting funding by 60 percent and funding that reduced portion with a controversial Federal land sale scheme.

Senator BAUCUS and I have proposed a sensible, alternative funding source for county payments. Our legislation fully funds county payments by ensuring that a portion of Federal taxes are withheld from payments by the Federal government to government contractors. The Federal Government currently does not withhold taxes when it pays government contractors. In May, the Republican-led Congress approved a major tax bill that uses our funding provision to instead provide tax cuts for the most fortunate Americans, leaving rural counties with fewer options and growing fiscal concerns.

As I have said before, I will hold these nominees and every nominee coming after them, if necessary, until the administration steps to the plate and delivers some leadership in finding a way to fund county payments.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to join Senator GRASSLEY and other distinguished Senate colleagues in cosponsoring S. Con. Res. 97. Under this concurrent resolution, the United States sets a goal to provide at least 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States from renewable resources by January 1, 2025.

I have said many times and very firmly believe that our energy future will be grown on our farms, ranches, and forests.

In my State of Montana, our farmers are already producing food and fiber for our country. Before long, they will be producing food, fiber, and fuel as agriculture will become part of the energy business. It is important we have the technology available so we do not have to choose between producing food or fuel. In Montana and elsewhere, technology is already being developed to produce cellulosic ethanol. Unlike traditional corn-based ethanol, cellulosic ethanol will use materials such as wheat straw and barley straw. These materials, once discarded as waste, can now be turned into energy.

On August 8, 2005, this Congress passed one of the most comprehensive energy research, development, and conservation bills this country has seen in decades: the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Now, just 1 year later, the initial outcomes are impressive. Twenty-seven new ethanol plants have broken ground. Over 400 E85 pumps have been installed. New wind power production has spurred over $3 billion in economic activity and generated 2,000 megawatts of new usable wind power online. These figures are staggering but pale in comparison to the accomplishments that are possible in the next 20 years.

We have set an ambitious goal. I am pleased this resolution does not include mandates for how to achieve this energy vision. The combination of American ingenuity and widespread public support for this initiative will move the free market toward achieving this attainable goal.

HOSTILITIES BETWEEN HEZBOLLAH AND ISRAEL

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator DODD, Senator SUNUNU and our other cosponsors in offering Senate Resolution 548, which expresses the sense of the Senate regarding the need for the United States and the international community to take certain actions with respect to the hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel.

Like all Americans, I am deeply concerned about the ongoing violence and the loss of civilian lives in the Middle East.

Hezbollah, an organization on the State Department's list of terrorist organizations, must accept full responsibility for sparking this latest round of violence. I support Israel's right to defend itself in response to Hezbollah's acts of terrorism against it. As this resolution urges, I hope that the governments of Iran and Syria will end their material and logistical support for Hezbollah and use their significant influence over Hezbollah to disarm the group and release all kidnapped prisoners.

As this resolution also urges, I favor the United States and the international community working with the governments of Israel and Lebanon on an urgent basis to attain a cessation in the hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel based on: the safe return of Israeli soldiers held by Hezbollah; the disarmament of Hezbollah, the removal of all Hezbollah forces from southern Lebanon, and the replacement of those forces with army and security forces of the Government of Lebanon; an reaching an agreement to fully implement United Nations Security Counsel Resolution 1559 and to create and deploy an international stabilization force with a clear mandate to enforce a permanent ceasefire.

I also hope that the U.S. Government and the international community will work together to organize an international donors conference to solicit and ensure the provision of international support for the reconstruction of Lebanon's infrastructure; and to remain engaged to promote sustainable peace and security for Israel and Lebanon and the greater Middle East.

EUROPEAN UNION COMPLIANCE TO THE KYOTO TREATY

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I want to address a growing misperception concerning the European Union's ability to meet its obligations under the Kyoto Treaty. There are many climate change skeptics who claim that the EU will not be able to meet their greenhouse gas emission reduction targets under the Kyoto Treaty. In turn, they argue that the U.S. should not participate in any ''cap and trade'' system for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Under the Kyoto Treaty, the EU has committed to greenhouse gas reductions target of 8 percent below their 1990 emission levels and covers the years 2008 through 2012. This target is shared by the 15 EU member states, EU–15, that existed at the time of the EU ratification of the protocol in May 2001. An additional 10 countries joined the EU in May 2004, eight of which have individual targets under Kyoto that range from 6 to 8 percent below the 1990 levels. Two of them, Malta and Cyprus, are developing countries and, therefore, do not have any emission targets under the treaty.

In December 2005, the EU, as required by the Kyoto Treaty, reported on the progress made toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The report indicated that EU policies and actions by member states to date have made annual carbon dioxide emissions reductions of 5.5 percent in the year 2003 across all 25 of the EU member states, EU–25.

The report makes the following assessments:

For the EU–15:

> Existing measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases that are projected to be 1.6 percent below the year 1990 levels in 2010. Savings from additional domestic policies and measures being planned by the EU–15 would result in total emission reductions of 6.8 percent.
>
> EU–15 member states forecast that they will be able to achieve lower emissions of 9.3 percent below the year 1990 levels through the use of the Kyoto flexibility mechanisms in the year 2010. They include such activities as emissions trading, forest sequestration, and participating in International projects that result in greenhouse gas reductions through the Joint Implementation and Clean Development Mechanism programs.

For the EU–25:

> The total of all member states' projections of greenhouse gas emissions will be 5 percent below base year levels in 2010 as a result of measures already implemented.
>
> The implementation of additional measures is projected to reduce the EU–25 greenhouse gas emissions to 9.3 percent below 1990 levels by 2010 and, with the use of Kyoto flexibility mechanisms, to 11.3 percent below the year 1990 levels.

The December 2005 report concludes that the EU–15 states can meet their target of 8 percent below the 1990 levels if the additional domestic measures and the Kyoto flexibility mechanisms that are planned are implemented.

According to the February 14, 2006 statement of the acting head of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Richard Kinley, 34 industrialized countries under the Kyoto Treaty were ''on their way to lower their emissions levels by at least 3.5% below the 1990 levels during the first commitment period.'' ''With the help of additional measures and the use of Kyoto market-based mechanisms, they will as a group be able reach their agreed Kyoto reduction targets.''

In June, the European Environment Agency issued the Annual European Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990–2004 and Inventory Report 2006. The report indicates that the EU–15 greenhouse gas emissions for 2004 increased by 0.3 percent—11.5 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents—over 2003. However, compared to the base year, emissions in 2004 were 0.9 percent lower. Assuming a linear target path from 1990 to 2010, total EU–15 greenhouse gas emissions were 4.7 index points above this target path in 2004. It should be noted that this linear target path is not intended as an approximation of past and future emission trends. It does provide a measure of how close the EU–15 emissions are in 2004 to a linear path of emissions from 1990 to the Kyoto target period of 2008–2012, assuming that only domestic measures will be used. Therefore, it is not a measure of future compliance of the EU–15 with its greenhouse gas emission targets in 2008–2012, but aims at evaluating overall EU–15 greenhouse emissions in 2004 alone.

The EU is fully committed to the Kyoto Treaty. It has adopted a series of policies and measures, such as the EU's greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme, to meet its target in a cost-effective manner. The most recent projections show that these measures, together with the EU's participation in the global carbon market, will allow the EU to meet its target.

To ensure its compliance with the Kyoto Protocol, the EU has adopted a series of measures under the European Climate Change Programme, ECCP. Most of these measures have recently entered into force and will start to show their full effect over the next few years. These include:

The EU greenhouse gas emissions trading scheme; the promotion of electricity from renewable energy sources; the promotion of cogeneration, CHP; increasing the energy performance of buildings; the promotion of the use of biofuels for transport; the reduction of land-filling of biodegradable waste

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD documents from the European Commission and the European Environmental Agency's reports which summarize the EU's efforts to address climate change. Let me highlight a few of the important elements from these reports for my colleagues.

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

Attachment I: European Climate Change Programme: Overview table of policies and measures

Explanation of terminology and estimates of emission reduction potential

1. "*In force*": These measures are adopted by the EU institutions, the main task for the Commission is to monitor the implementation and review if appropriate (as sometimes laid down through specific legislative requirements). Important upcoming reviews are also indicated in the table
2. "*In co-decision*": These measures have been proposed by the Commission and are currently in co-decision in the European Institutions
3. "*in implementation*" : these non legislative measures are currently in execution
3. "*Advanced stage of preparation*": the preparatory policy work is to a large extent completed and a concrete proposal is envisaged in the Commission's work plan
4. "*In preparation*": the examination of the measure are still on-going

It should be noted that the emission reduction potential for the various ECCP measures are (ex-ante) estimates. The 'ex ante' ECCP evaluation of the potential of a certain measure does not necessarily coincide with the actual realisation in the field, as not all of the detailed provisions of the proposals or adopted measures have been taken into account in the pre-evaluation. Another reason is that the estimated potential is sometimes based on reaching certain (indicative) targets, which will need to be proven in practice (eg. CHP and biofuels proposals).

Summary of implemented and planned policies and measures

Cross-cutting issues

Policies and measures 'Cross-cutting'	**Emission reduction potential (Mt CO_2eq) By 2010 – EU-15**	**Stage of implementation /timetable /comments**
EU emissions trading scheme		In force
Revision of the monitoring mechanism	N/a	In force
Link Kyoto flexible mechanisms to emissions trading		In force

Energy Supply

Policies and measures 'Energy supply'	**Emission reduction potential (Mt CO_2eq) By 2010 – EU-15**	**Stage of implementation /timetable /comments**
Directive on renewable electricity	100-125[1]	In force
Directives on the promotion of transport bio-fuels	35-40[1]	In force
Directive on promotion of cogeneration	65	In force
Further measures on renewable	36-48	In preparation

[1] Second ECCP progress report April 2003 - http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/pdf/second_eccp_report.pdf

heating and cooling (including biomass action plan)		
Intelligent Energy for Europe: programme for renewable energy	N/a	Programme for policy support in renewable energy
TOTAL in implementation	193-255	

Energy demand

Policies and measures 'Energy demand'	**Emission reduction potential (Mt CO_2eq) By 2010 – EU-15**	**Stage of implementation /timetable /comments**
Directive on the energy performance of buildings	35-45	In force Monitoring and review
Directive requiring energy labelling of domestic appliances Existing labels + New (el. ovens &AC) Envisaged revisions (refrigerators/freezers/dish-washers) Planned new (hot water heaters) Extension of scope of Directive	 20[1] 1 10 23 N/k	In force Monitoring and review In force In force In preparation
Framework Directive on eco-efficiency requirements of energy-using products	2010: dependent on implementation of daughter directives	In co-decision (institutional agreement)
Directive on Energy services	40-55[1]	In force
Action Plan on Energy efficiency as a follow-up to the GreenPaper	N/a	In preparation (2006)
Action under the directive on integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC) on energy efficiency	N/k	In preparation
Intelligent Energy for Europe programme for energy efficiency	N/a	Programme for policy support in energy efficiency
Public awareness campaign on energy efficiency	N/a	Supporting program as part of Intelligent Energy for Europe: In implementation
Programme for voluntary action on motors (Motor Challenge)	30	Supporting programme for voluntary action on efficient motor systems
Public procurement	25-40	EU Handbook developed for guidance for increased energy efficient public procurement
OVERALL in implementation	184-224	

Transport

Policies and measures 'Transport'	**Emission reduction potential (Mt CO_2eq) By 2010 – EU-15**	**Stage of implementation /timetable /comments**
Community strategy on CO_2 from passenger cars (including voluntary commitment – VC - of car associations)	Total 107-115 Of which VC: 75-80[2]	VC: monitoring; review ongoing Labelling: in force Communication on fiscal measures: in implementation Directive on taxation of passenger cars: in preparation
Framework Directive Infrastructure use and charging	40-60	In implementation, in relation to heavy duty road transport only
Shifting the balance of transport modes	N/k	Package of measures in implementation
Fuel taxation	N/k	In force Focus on EU harmonisation of taxation, not on CO_2 reduction
Directive on mobile air conditioning systems: HFCs	See regulation on fluorinated gases	In co-decision, as part of regulation on fluorinated gases
TOTAL in implementation	**147 - 175**	

Industry & non CO_2 gases

Policies and measures 'Industry'	**Emission reduction potential (Mt CO_2eq) By 2010 – EU-15**	**Stage of implementation /timetable /comments**
Regulation on fluorinated gases	23[3]	In co-decision
IPPC & non-CO_2 gases	N/k	In force Review periodically

Waste

Policies and measures	**Emission reduction potential (Mt CO_2eq) By 2010 – EU-15**	**Stage of implementation /timetable /comments**
Landfill Directive	41[2]	In force
Thematic strategy on waste	N/k	In preparation

Integration Research & Development

Policies and measures	**Emission reduction potential (Mt CO_2eq) By 2010 – EU-15**	**Stage of implementation /timetable /comments**
R&D framework Program	n/a	In force 6 Framework Programme for research and development Includes support for R&D in the fields of energy, transport and

[2] Second ECCP progress report April 2003 - http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/climat/pdf/second_eccp_report.pdf

[3] COM (2003) 492 final

		climate In preparation 7 Framework Programme

Integration Structural funds

Policies and measures	**Emission reduction potential (Mt CO_2eq) By 2010 – EU-15**	**Stage of implementation /timetable /comments**
Integration climate change in structural funds &cohesion funds	n/a	For the new budgetary period 2007-2013 renewable energy and energy efficiency have been identified as eligible areas for support –EU strategic guidelines In preparation

Table 1: Agriculture

Policies and measures in 'Agriculture'	**Emission reduction potential (Mt CO_2eq) By 2010 – EU-15**	**Stage of implementation /timetable /comments**
Integration climate change in rural development	N/a	For the new budgetary period 2007-2013 renewable energy and energy efficiency have been identified as eligible areas for support –EU strategic guidelines In preparation
Support scheme for energy crops	N/a	In force
N_2O from soils	10	improved implementation of the nitrates Directive
TOTAL in implementation	**10**	

Table 2:Forests

Policies and measures 'Forests'	**Emission reduction potential (Mt CO_2eq) By 2010 – EU-15**	**Stage of implementation /timetable /comments**
Afforestation and reforestation: - Afforestation programmes - Natural forest expansion	Not known	Identified potential:14 Mt of CO2 eq..Possibility for support through forestry scheme of rural development
Forest management (various measures)	Not known	Identified potential: 19 Mt CO2 eq..Possibility for support through forestry scheme of rural development, dependent on national implementation.
TOTAL in implementation	**-**	

Attachment II: The EU's Kyoto Performance

Table 1: Greenhouse gas emissions trends and Kyoto Protocol targets for 2008-2012 (source: European Environment Agency, 2006)

MEMBER STATE	Base year [1] (million tonnes)	2004 (million tonnes)	Change 2003–2004 (million tonnes)	Change 2003–2004 (%)	Change base year–2004 (%)	Targets 2008–12 under Kyoto Protocol and "EU burden sharing" (%)
Austria	78.9	91.3	-1.2	-1.3%	15.7%	-13.0%
Belgium	146.9	147.9	0.3	0.2%	0.7%	-7.5%
Cyprus [2]	6.0	8.9	-0.3	-3.0%	48.2%	-
Czech Republic	196.3	147.1	-0.5	-0.3%	-25.1%	-8.0%
Denmark	69.3	68.1	-6.0	-8.1%	-1.8%	-21.0%
Estonia	42.6	21.3	0.1	0.7%	-50.0%	-8.0%
Finland	71.1	81.4	-4.2	-4.9%	14.5%	0.0%
France	567.1	562.6	1.5	0.3%	-0.8%	0.0%
Germany	1230.0	1015.3	-9.1	-0.9%	-17.5%	-21.0%
Greece	111.1	137.6	0.3	0.3%	23.9%	25.0%
Hungary	122.2	83.1	-0.2	-0.2%	-32.0%	-6.0%
Ireland	55.8	68.5	0.1	0.1%	22.7%	13.0%
Italy	518.9	582.5	5.1	0.9%	12.3%	-6.5%
Latvia	25.9	10.7	0.0	0.4%	-58.5%	-8.0%
Lithuania	50.9	20.3	3.1	17.9%	-60.1%	-8.0%
Luxembourg	12.7	12.7	1.3	11.3%	0.3%	-28.0%
Malta [2]	2.2	3.2	0.1	4.2%	45.9%	-
Netherlands	214.3	217.8	2.5	1.1%	1.6%	-6.0%
Poland	565.3	386.4	3.7	1.0%	-31.6%	-6.0%
Portugal	60.0	84.5	0.9	1.0%	41.0%	27.0%
Slovakia	73.2	51.0	-0.1	-0.1%	-30.3%	-8.0%
Slovenia	20.2	20.1	0.4	2.0%	-0.8%	-8.0%
Spain	289.4	427.9	19.7	4.8%	47.9%	15.0%
Sweden	72.5	69.9	-1.1	-1.5%	-3.6%	4.0%
United Kingdom	767.9	659.3	1.3	0.2%	-14.1%	-12.5%
EU-15	**4265.7**	**4227.4**	**11.5**	**0.3%**	**-0.9%**	**-8.0%**

1. The base year emissions in this table are preliminary and the final emissions will be agreed in 2006 within Council Decision (2002/358/EC). The base year for CO2, CH4 and N2O, for the EU-15-15, is 1990; for the fluorinated gases 13 Member States have chosen to select 1995 as the base year, whereas Austria and France have chosen 1990. As the EU-15 inventory is the sum of Member States' inventories, the EU-15 base year estimates for fluorinated gas emissions are the sum of 1995 emissions for 13 Member States and 1990 emissions for Austria and France.
2. Malta and Cyprus did not provide GHG emission estimates for 2004, therefore the data provided in this table is based on gap filling.

Note: Malta and Cyprus do not have Kyoto Protocol targets.

Attachment III:

Use of the Kyoto Mechanisms by Member States

Member State planned use of the Kyoto Mechanisms in Million tonnes of CO_2 equivalent for the entire first commitment period (2008-2012), based on information provided in their National Allocation Plans submitted under the EU emissions trading scheme.

Member State	Planned use of Kyoto mechanisms	Which Kyoto mechanisms? (ET, CDM, JI)	Projected emission reduction 2008–12 through the use of Kyoto mechanisms [a] [Million tonnes CO_2-equivalents per year]
Austria	Yes	Priority on JI and CDM	7.0[b]
Belgium	Yes	Priority on JI and CDM	12,3
Denmark	Yes	CDM, JI	8-13
Estonia	No	-	-
Finland	Yes (Pilot programme to gain experiences implemented)	Not yet decided	0.6 contracted, total quantity not yet decided
France	Yes	Priority on JI and CDM	36
Germany	Use of Kyoto mechanisms allowed at company level, no acquisition by government planned	ET, JI, CDM	24
Greece	Not yet decided	Not yet decided	Not yet decided
Ireland	Yes	ET	3.7[c]
Italy	Yes	ET, CDM, JI	39.6
Luxembourg	Yes	ET, CDM, JI	3.0
Netherlands	Yes	CDM, JI	20.0[d] (CDM and JI)
Portugal	Yes	ET, CDM, JI	No estimate provided[e] Studies on the use of JI/CDM initiated
Slovenia	Yes	ET, CDM, possibly JI	Not yet decided
Spain	Yes	Priority on ET and CDM but also JI	20.0
Sweden	Not yet decided, under consideration (Pilot programme to gain experiences)	ET, CDM, JI	Investments made are estimated to amount to 1 Mtonne/year in emission credits
United Kingdom	Use of Kyoto mechanisms allowed at company level, no acquisition by government planned	ET, CDM, JI	No projected estimate as the amount will depend on private action

Notes:

[a] The projected emission reduction through the use of Kyoto mechanisms for Austria, Ireland and Luxembourg stems from the Commission decisions on the national allocation plans of those countries (COM(2004) 500 final, COM(2004) 681 final).The Commission has based its decision on information provided in the NAPs and/or in further correspondence during the assessment of the NAPs.The figures for Belgium, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain are derived from the questionnaire, the 3rd national communication or the national allocation plan (for details see below).

[b] Austria assumes in the questionnaire a maximum of 50 % of the efforts required for compliance with its burden sharing target to be accomplished by means of JI and CDM.

[c] Ireland states in the questionnaire that it intends to purchase 3.7 million tonnes CO_2-equivalents per year from international emissions trading.

[d] The Netherlands expect in the questionnaire a contribution of 100 million tonnes CO_2-equivalents from project based activities in 2008-12 (20.0 million tonnes CO_2-equivalents per year).By the end of 2004 99.0 million tonnes CO_2-equivalents have already been contracted, two thirds of which from CDM projects and the remaining third from JI.

[e] Portugal assumes in the questionnaire a maximum of 50% of the additional efforts required (described as the difference, for each of the years of the commitment period, between emissions levels considering the effects of policies and measures, and the burden sharing target) will be accomplished by means of JI and CDM.

Source: EEA, 2005

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, attachment I gives a full overview of all recently adopted measures and their projected effect. ECCP policies and other actions by Member States to date, in combination with restructuring of European industry, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe, have contributed to an absolute reduction of annual carbon dioxide emissions of some 305 million tonnes, 4.8 percent, across the EU–25 in 2004.

Attachment II provides an overview of the performance of individual Member States. In 2004, the EU–15, which shares the EU's Kyoto target of an 8 percent reduction, had reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by 0.9 percent compared to 1990 levels even though they recorded economic growth of 32 percent from 1990 to 2004. The average EU–15 member state's emissions over the most recent 5-year period are currently 2 percent below 1990 level.

Attachment III provides an overview of the planned use by individual Member States of the Kyoto mechanisms. The EU will make use of the cost-effective reduction options offered by its participation in the global carbon market, based on the Kyoto's flexible mechanisms, to meet its target.

In summary Mr. President, the EU has made good progress and its ultimate success will depend upon the speed and thoroughness of the implementation by Member States of legislative and domestic measures. Total projections for the EU–15 Member States show that the Kyoto targets can be met if Member States implement additional planned domestic measures and use the flexible mechanisms.

Despite this meaningful progress, the EU realizes that much more has to be done. Its climate change policy does not stop in 2012, the end of the Kyoto Treaty. The European Commission has also adopted a Communication outlining key elements for a strategy for further action post 2012. They include: the need for broader participation by countries and sectors; the development of low-carbon technologies; the continued and expanded use of market-based instruments; and the need to adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change. A follow-up Communication with proposals for concrete steps at European and international levels is planned for the end of 2006.

These policies, and others like them, provide the necessary strong, long-term signals to industry, EU Member State governments, and the wider international community that the EU is committed to tackling climate change and expects all of its institutions, businesses, and citizens to do their part.

Many here in the US will try to use another country's failure or inaction as an excuse for not doing anything. But it is just that, an excuse. The harsh reality is that we all need to be doing more—and that means the United States too. Just as we cannot allow the EU challenges to serve as the basis for our inaction, I certainly hope that the EU would not allow our lack of action to hinder their efforts to address this significant problem.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

GRAND OPENING OF THE ROTARY CLUBS OF MODESTO CENTENNIAL JUNCTION

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I celebrate the grand opening of the Rotary Clubs of Modesto Centennial Junction section of the Virginia Corridor and to recognize the United Rotary Clubs of Modesto's extraordinary contributions and support for the Virginia Corridor Rails-to-Trails project. When I visited the site in July of 2002, the Virginia Corridor was very much just an idea. However, as a result of the hard work of a number of city officials and staff members, and the determination of a group of motivated citizens, the entire Virginia Corridor will soon become a reality.

The United Rotary Clubs of Modesto, an organization that played an instrumental role to this project, is comprised of the five local Rotary clubs: the Modesto Rotary Club, the Modesto East Rotary Club, the Modesto Gateway Rotary Club, the Modesto North Rotary Club, and the Modesto Sunrise Rotary Club. Together, the local rotary clubs contributed significant funding for the trail segment between Roseburg and Orangeburg Avenues. The rotary clubs donated and installed lighting, a 10-foot wide asphalt trail surface, a kiosk, fencing and irrigation. This quarter mile trail, which will be known as the Rotary Clubs of Modesto Centennial Junction of the Virginia Corridor, features a trail with lighting, landscaping, benches, picnic tables and seat walls.

The Virginia Corridor Rails-to-Trails project is a truly collaborative effort between the city of Modesto, the State of California, the Federal Government, and a host of local community interests that, once completed, will successfully transform a once abandoned rail corridor into a premier linear park, trail and recreational gathering place in one of the fastest growing cities in California's Central Valley.

When completed, the Virginia Corridor will stretch nearly 4 miles from Modesto's central business district to the northern boundary of the city. Once completed, this trail will link neighborhoods by providing a safe and scenic commuter route to schools, parks, and restaurants for bicyclists and pedestrians. The Virginia Corridor will also offer a place for Modesto's outdoor enthusiasts to pursue a myriad of outdoor activities, as it will link three primary bike paths that include: the Hetch Hetchy Trail in North Modesto, the class I trails in Dry Creek Regional Park and the Tuolumne River Regional Park.

I congratulate the city of Modesto on the opening of the Rotary Clubs of Modesto Centennial Junction of the Virginia Corridor. I especially commend the invaluable contributions of the United Rotary Clubs of Modesto which, through their generosity and commitment to public service, have provided a community jewel that will go a long way towards improving the quality of life for the people of Modesto.•

HONORING OFFICER MICHEL O. CONLEY

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Officer Michel O. Conley, who lost his life in Colorado's Big Thompson Flood of 1976.

Thirty years ago, more than 1 foot of rain fell in a matter of hours, causing a flash flood in Big Thompson Canyon. One hundred and forty four people were killed and over $30 million in property damage occurred. We remember those who died in this natural disaster and also the survivors who had to rebuild their lives, working as a community to start over again. This week, outside of my hometown of Loveland, CO, survivors of this tragedy gathered to commemorate the Big Thompson Flood. Though I could not be with them, my thoughts and prayers were. I speak on the Senate floor today as a tribute to this special event.

I ask that the following letter, which I wrote for the Memorial Service for Officer Michel O. Conley, be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows.

JULY 31, 2006

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR OFFICER MICHEL O. CONLEY; 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIG THOMPSON FLOOD

DEAR MS. MARKS AND GUESTS: As we look back thirty years ago today we remember the shock and devastation that took place in the Big Thompson Canyon, and the loss of Officer Michel O. Conley.

Joan and I arrived just after the crest from the flood had passed through Loveland and were astounded by the destruction. We were devastated by the tragedy which affected our community.

The loss of Officer Michel Conley of the Estes Park Police Department is part of that tragedy. However, in his acts of service and selflessness he helped to prevent what could have been more losses. He helped to save approximately 60 people before he was lost in flood. His gallantry and bravery are to be commended.

Joan's and my prayers and thoughts are with you today as you commemorate the Big Thompson Canyon Flood and the life of Officer Conley, and with all whose lives were affected by this tragedy.

Sincerely,

WAYNE ALLARD,
U.S. Senator.•

IN MEMORY OF DR. FELICIA H. STEWART

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to an extraordinary woman, renowned reproductive health expert Dr. Felicia Hance Stewart. Dr. Stewart died on April 13 at the age of 63. Her energy, compassion, intelligence and tireless commitment to