

Alaska, according to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, still has some 16,000 homes in 71 generally Native villages not being served by piped water or enclosed water haul systems. There are still 55 villages in Alaska where up to 29 percent of the residents are not served by sanitary water systems, with more than 60 percent of residents not being served in 16 villages. Even though, since statehood in 1959, the State and Federal governments have spent \$1.3 billion on rural water-sanitation system improvements, the State still has an estimated need for nearly \$650 million in additional funding to complete installation of a modern water-sanitation system.

Planning and engineering for those locations cannot be easily completed without better information as to the availability and extent of supply of water and better analysis of new technologies that could be used for water system installations, including possible desalination for some island and coastal communities.

For all these reasons today I have reintroduced legislation authorizing the Department of the Interior's Commissioner of Reclamation and the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct a series of water resource studies in Alaska. The studies will include a survey of water treatment needs and technologies, including desalination treatment, which may be applicable to water resources developments in Alaska. The study will review the need for enhancement of the National Streamflow Information Program administered by the U.S. Geological Survey. The Streamflow review will determine whether more stream gaging stations are necessary for flood forecasting, aiding resource extraction, determining the risk to the state's transportation system, and for wildfire management. Groundwater resources will also be further evaluated and documented to determine the availability of water, the quality of that groundwater, and the extent of the aquifers in some urban areas.

This type of study, already conducted for most all other States in the Nation, should help Alaska better plan and design water systems and transportation infrastructure and also better prepare for floods and summer wildfires.

There is literally "water, water everywhere" in Alaska, but too often, especially in communities such as Ketchikan that take water from surface sources, or the rapidly growing Mat-Su Valley where there may be less water to drink during unusually dry summers, there is a real and growing problem of maintaining an adequate healthy supply of pure water. This problem is only going to grow more severe with a growing population and economy. This bill is designed to provide more information to help communities plan for future water needs and to help State officials plan for flood and fire safety concerns and further economic development.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 205. A bill to grant rights-of-way for electric transmission lines over certain Native allotments in the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President. Today I reintroduce legislation which will resolve an ongoing dispute in my State concerning rights of way in the Copper River Valley region.

In the 109th Congress, both the Senate and House of Representatives held hearings on this bill. It is my hope that we can move this important legislation quickly through the Senate.

When Congress attempted to settle outstanding land claims in Alaska, it unintentionally created a land dispute between Native allottees and utility companies. In the 1950s and 1960s, the Federal Government and the State of Alaska granted rights of way to the Copper Valley Electric Association to run power lines across areas in our state that were later claimed by Alaska Natives. These rights were conveyed before Alaska Native allotment claims had been filed and processed.

In 1980, Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, which legislatively ratified native allotment land claims subject to the valid existing rights of other land holders. However, several Native allottees challenged the existing rights of other land holders and claimed that the Copper Valley Electric Association was trespassing on their lands. In 1987, the Department of Interior's Interior Board of Land Appeals affirmed this position, finding native allottees have priority over other competing uses of land—in this case, those of the utility company—regardless of the fact that the rights of way were granted prior to the conveyance of the property in question to the allottees. This situation is still unresolved and has resulted in years of litigation.

We have been unable to settle these disputes through existing remedies. These conflicts now jeopardize existing transportation and utility corridors and threaten future infrastructure development in the region.

At my request, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) reviewed this situation. The GAO issued its report and recommended solutions. This bill incorporates the GAO's recommendation. It compensates the owners of the Native allotments, while ensuring that the utility companies are able to provide residents with the infrastructure and services they need. I believe this is the most equitable solution available, and I urge the Senate to pass this bill.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 21—RECOGNIZING THE UNCOMMON VALOR OF WESLEY AUTREY OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following res-

olution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 21

Whereas Wesley Autrey is a citizen of New York, New York;

Whereas Wesley Autrey is a veteran of the United States Navy;

Whereas Wesley Autrey has been a member in good standing of the Construction and General Building Laborers' Local 79 since 1996;

Whereas Wesley Autrey witnessed a fellow subway passenger suffer from a seizure and fall onto the train tracks;

Whereas Wesley Autrey was compelled by his belief that he should "do the right thing" and serve as an example to his 2 young daughters;

Whereas Wesley Autrey demonstrated uncommon valor and tremendous bravery in diving onto the train tracks to save the life of his fellow subway passenger only moments before an incoming train passed over them;

Whereas the beneficiary of Wesley Autrey's courageous actions is now recovering at St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital Center, New York;

Whereas Wesley Autrey has conducted himself with the utmost humility in the midst of his newfound fame; and

Whereas Wesley Autrey stands out as an example of selflessness to members of his community, his State, and the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that Wesley Autrey acted heroically by putting his own life at risk to save that of his fellow citizen; and

(2) expresses its deep appreciation for Wesley Autrey's example and the values that his actions represent.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2, S. 5, S. 113

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that there are three bills at the desk that are now due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

A bill (S. 5) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research.

A bill (S. 113) to make appropriations for military construction and family housing projects for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2007.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to these bills, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 1

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. S. 1, the ethics bill, at 11 a.m. tomorrow morning, January 9, for debate only until 2:15 p.m., with the time, until the Senate recesses for the party luncheons, equally divided and controlled between the leaders and their designees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.