

that it will be a significant blow to the credibility of the process.

Zimbabwe is not the only country raising issues that threaten the credibility of the Kimberley Process. Last month, the Wall Street Journal reported that there continue to be abuses and killings by soldiers and private security guards in Angola around diamond mines. Angola is reportedly the world's fifth-largest diamond producer in terms of overall value. Meanwhile, the United Nations Expert Group on Cote D'Ivoire has reported for years on how groups in northern Cote D'Ivoire continue to extract and smuggle diamonds through neighboring countries in violation of UN sanctions. Diamond smuggling is also reportedly rampant in Venezuela, while the government there continues to evade the Kimberley Process. Across these countries and many others, weak government controls and limited enforcement options are enabling illicit diamonds to continue to enter the legitimate trade.

The inability of the Kimberley Process to effectively address these problems has exposed significant loopholes within the process. To begin with, the Kimberley Process defines "conflict diamonds" as "rough diamonds used by rebel movements or their allies to finance conflict aimed at undermining legitimate governments." While this definition may have made sense in light of the civil wars in countries such as Sierra Leone and Liberia, it does not capture abuses and violence perpetrated today by government forces in diamond-producing areas around the world. In addition, the process lacks a clear, agreed-upon approach for dealing with cases of noncompliance like Venezuela or Zimbabwe. As we move into the 10th year of Kimberley's existence, we need to take a serious look at how we can best ensure the certification scheme has real power to investigate, monitor, and curb the illegal flow of diamonds, including ensuring serious consequences when a country does not live up to its commitments.

Since its inception, I have strongly supported the Kimberley Process as a vehicle to stop the trade in conflict diamonds and protect consumers and legitimate diamond producers from unwittingly participating in abuses. And the Kimberley Process has achieved a great deal in this respect, despite being a voluntary process and thereby having obvious limitations. But now I strongly believe we need to see the Kimberley Process recommit to its human rights agenda at the same time that it deals with the technical and procedural challenges that hamper its effectiveness. We still have a long way to go in curbing the flow of conflict diamonds and ensuring they do not make their way into our markets.

For these reasons, I believe we must look seriously at the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process and consider re-vamping its framework so it has real teeth. Doing so will require strong leadership, and I believe the United

States as the world's largest consumer of diamonds and a key player in the creation of the process is well positioned to provide that leadership. Senator LEAHY and I have urged the Obama administration to put the United States forward to be vice-chair of the Kimberley Process for 2011 and thus chair in 2012. It is in our national interest to have a strong Kimberley Process, and it is a critical moment for the United States to exhibit leadership to that end.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN WATER AGENCIES

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and share with my colleagues an important milestone for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, NACWA. The association celebrates its 40th anniversary at its annual summer conference and meeting July 20 to 23 in San Francisco. This year's conference, "Sustainable Resource Management—Lessons from Clean Water's Past and Present," will surely inspire new solutions and innovative ideas to improve our country's water quality and protect the health of our children and families.

Established in 1970 by a group of individuals representing 22 large municipal sewerage agencies, NACWA now represents over 300 of the Nation's publicly owned wastewater utilities. NACWA grew up alongside the landmark Clean Water Act of 1972, which has been enormously successful at reducing pollution into our Nation's waterways. The 22 founding agencies of NACWA united behind a related mission: to secure investment in municipal wastewater treatment and improve water quality. As NACWA continued to grow and diversify, they have worked to promote watershed management and the health of our ecosystems.

Today, NACWA has an active membership of publicly owned treatment agencies stretching from coast to coast. NACWA provides its members with educational resources, community building, networking opportunities, and a forum for sharing best practices and building consensus on water policy.

I am so pleased to acknowledge NACWA's long and distinguished record of environmental advocacy. Clean, safe drinking water is essential to all of us. The association has been a leader on a range of issues affecting our water supply. Over the course of my career in the Senate, I have had the pleasure of working with NACWA on important legislation including the Water Infrastructure Financing Act and the Water Resources Development Act.

In 2008, I was honored to receive NACWA's Legislative Leadership Award for my efforts on the Water Resources Development Act, WRDA, of

2007. This historic legislation is of critical importance to our Nation's water quality and economy. WRDA 2007 garnered broad support on both sides of the aisle, and I am again working with my colleagues to pass a WRDA bill that will build on the important progress we made in WRDA 2007, continue investment in vital water resources projects, and create jobs rebuilding the Nation's aging water infrastructure.

I commend the members and staff of NACWA for their dedication and support for policies that advance clean water and a healthy, sustainable environment. Their efforts have certainly had a positive impact on our Nation's environmental policy and water quality. I look forward to working with NACWA to improve our Nation's water quality, ecosystems and infrastructure for years to come by supporting legislation that protects our Nation's waterways and water supply. Together, we can ensure clean water for future generations. Please join me in celebrating the 40th anniversary of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4684. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to strike medals in I commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States and the establishment of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center.

H.R. 4842. An act to authorize appropriations for the Directorate of Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal years 2011 and 2012, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5266. An act to extend the final report deadline and otherwise reauthorize the National Commission on Children and Disasters.

H.R. 5301. An act to extend the period during which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and States are prohibited from requiring a permit under section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution