The bill was conducted by locally based Ward Research Inc. with a sampling size of 604 respondents. Over the course of the last decade, during the administrations of Presidents George W. Bush and President Obama, language in the Akaka bill has been widely debated and amended in the House. Gov. Linda Lingle and her administration oppose the current version of the bill. Lingle had been a strong and influential supporter of the bill, but this version grants too much authority to the Native Hawaiian entity at the expense of the state government, the state and the federal governments. For instance, it would grant “sovereign immunity” to the entity and its employees from the state, federal, criminal, public health, child safety and environmental laws.

Longtime opponents of the Akaka bill and/or federal recognition said the Hawai’i Poll numbers show only that a majority of Hawai’i residents don’t know what federal recognition means. “I think the big problem is nobody knows what’s inside the bill,” said Thurston Twigg-Smith, former Honolulu Advertiser owner. “They keep changing it, people don’t have a chance to read it.”

Congress should hold hearings on the measure in Hawai’i so the public can get a better understanding of the language, he said.

Hawaiian rights activist Dennis Pu’u honua “Bumpy” Kanaha said the poll “only tells me that people aren’t even aware of what the Akaka bill is about.”

Kanaha said that’s why he’s been pushing for a constitutional convention, so Hawaiians can look at the different models and determine what’s best.

Among the 115 poll respondents who identified themselves as Native Hawaiians, 82 percent said they support federal recognition. Among other ethnic groups, 66 percent of those describing themselves as Japanese support it, while 61 percent of Filipinos and Caucasians indicated support.

Only 58 percent of those who identified themselves as support federal recognition, while 72 percent of those ages 35 to 54 support it, and 79 percent of those under 35 do.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING SENATORS

BYRON DORGAN

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota, Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague, Senator BYRON DORGAN. This is his last day as a member of the Senate. He is retiring after serving the people of North Dakota in the Congress, the House, and Senate, for 30 years. But Byron’s record in North Dakota goes even beyond that—another 12 years in State office, so a total of 42 years of serving the people of North Dakota.

I want to first say I am not objective when it comes to Byron Dorgan because he is my best friend. We have been friends and allies for all of those 42 years. In 1968 I was running a campaign to lower the voting age in North Dakota and first met Byron Dorgan, a young tax commissioner—very young, in his twenties, appointed after the previous tax commissioner took his life. Byron had extraordinary responsibility thrust on him at a very young age, the youngest statewide official in our State’s history. Byron disposed of those responsibilities with real distinction, becoming recognized as the most influential State leader, even more influential than the Governor of the State, by a major publication in North Dakota.

I want Byron Dorgan in that year and we were so struck by his ability, his charisma, and his vision for our State and our Nation that I thought: This is somebody I want to work with in my career.

We started a friendship that has lasted to this day. In 1970 I was helping run the reelection campaign of Senator Quentin Burdick. In this Congress for more than 30 years, I got to know Byron even better. In fact, my wife and I spent time with him and his wife. In the years that followed we became very close friends. In 1974, when I got back from business school, Byron called me and asked me to come to his office. I did the day after I returned home. We took a walk around the Capitol Grounds of the State of North Dakota and he talked to me about what he saw as the future—the future of our State, things that were happening in the Congress that needed to be addressed, and how the two of us might, working together, change that future and make a difference.

I agreed that day to be his campaign manager for the House of Representatives. In that campaign, Earl Pomeroy, now North Dakota’s lone Congressman, was the driver. I was the campaign manager. Byron is always quick to point out it was the only election he ever lost. He always said it was the fault of the campaign manager. I always said it was the fault of the driver. But Earl, always believed we would have won if only he had been the candidate.

Those were incredible days. I remember so well that campaign, the three of us—we bonded in a way that I think is very rare in politics and served together in a way that is unusual. There was no party line. The kind of competition that often exists between Members, but there was always a keen friendship and a real partnership. We were allies, fighting for North Dakota, fighting to
change the country, deeply committed to each other and to our State.

After that campaign BYRON asked me to be his assistant. Weeks later he hired Lucy Calautti. Lucy, years later, became my wife, so I have always credited Lucy as my campaign manager. We were also joined by my college roommate who became another assistant to then tax commissioner BYRON DORGAN, a young man named Jim Lang, a very dear friend of mine, an ab-solute genius, and the four of us worked for the Democratic Party in North Dakota and to change the po-litical landscape.

Those were incredible times. We fought great battles for a coal sever-ance tax in North Dakota, for an oil severance tax, things that helped build the financial base for our State.

In 1980, BYRON announced that he would seek North Dakota’s lone seat in the House of Representatives. I ran to succeed him as tax commissioner. Lucy, who then was somebody for whom I had great respect, was his cam-paign manager in that race for the House of Representatives. BYRON was successful, and I was successful in a year in which no other Democrats were successful.

We then had a period of time, 6 years, before the Senate race in which BYRON was in Washington, I was in North Da-kota, and we campaigned together day after day, weekend after weekend, month after month all across North Dakota, building a movement, a move-ment that resulted in my running for the Senate in 1986.

It was really BYRON’s turn. He could have chosen to run, but he decided not to, and so I did, in a race that many thought was impossible for me to win.

I started out more than 30 points be-hind the incumbent. He had over $1 million in the bank. When I got into the race, I think I had $126. But BYRON DORGAN was in that race every step of the way. I think very few others would have done what he did for me. I think very few other Members of the House of Representatives, having some-one else leapfrog them to come to the Senate, would have put themselves on the line as much as BYRON DORGAN did for me in that Senate race in 1986. But he was with me in every corner of the State fighting tooth and nail, an uphill battle in which, as I said, I started out 38 points behind.

On election day, I won a very narrow victory, winning by about 2,000 votes over an incumbent who had won his previous race with over 70 percent of the vote and a man who really looked like a U.S. Senator, Mark And-wrews—6 feet 5 inches, booming voice, white mane of hair, very powerful speaker. Yet I was able to win that race in a squeaker, and I never could have without BYRON’s extraordinary assistance and support.

For a period of time that I was in the Senate, he was in the House, and then in 1992 I announced I would not seek re-election to my seat because I made a pledge in that 1986 campaign, and the pledge I made was that I would not run for reelection unless the deficit was dramatically reduced. If you have reviewed 1992, you know the deficit was at a record level. After the first Bush administration, we had reached record levels. So I announced I would not seek reelection, in keeping with my pledge. BYRON DORGAN announced for my seat, and there was Lucy helping to run BYRON’s campaign for what was my seat in the Senate—a remarkable time in our lives.

Then later that year, Senator Burdick, the other Senator from North Da-kota, died. The Governor called me and said: KENT, you have to run to fill out the remainder of his term, and there was Lucy helping to run BYRON’s campaign for what was my seat in the Senate—a remarkable time in our lives.

Robert Kennedy once said: ‘‘There are those that look at things the way they are and ask why? I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?’ That is really the way BYRON ap-proached service to North Dakota. He did not see limits; he saw opportunity.

He looked at our university system and saw no reason they could not be built into the Red River Valley Research Corridor that could power the economy of east-ern North Dakota. And he set about making it happen, and he has suc-ceded.

He looked at our energy industry and saw no reason North Dakota could not be the energy powerhouse for the Na-tion. Through his position on the En-ergy Committee and the Energy and Public Utilities Appropriations, he helped build North Dakota into one of the leading energy-prod-ucing States in the Nation.

He looked at the growth of the knowledge industries and the Internet and saw no reason North Dakota could not be wired with the same 21st-cen-tury telecommunication infras-tructure as the rest of the country. He used his position on the Commerce Com-mittee to get that done as well.

The results of his vision are seen in every corner of our State. Modern highways and air terminals, new and improved water infrastructure, a boom-ing energy and agricultural economy, high-tech companies springing up ev-erywhere across our State, the strong-est economic growth in the Nation, the lowest unemployment rate in the Na-tion—by any measure, North Dakota is doing very well. Most of that, BYRON will tell you, is because of the hard work and good judgment of the people of North Dakota. So, then, no one has worked harder or smarter on behalf of North Dakota than Senator BYRON DORGAN.
Let me close by saying that I do not know of a harder working or more productive person than Byron Dorgan. He produces extraordinary amounts of high-quality work. He is type A squared, but he never forgets his roots.

Byron Dorgan grew up in Regent, ND, a town of 300. He often reminds us that he graduated in a class of nine and he was in the top five. He is proud of that background, he is proud of that heritage, he is proud of our State, he is proud of our Nation, and we are proud of him.

I will miss Byron Dorgan’s partnership here every day, but I know he will be with us because Byron Dorgan will never be far from the fray. Byron Dorgan has served this body well, served the Nation well, and served our State extraordinarily well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Franken.) The Senator from Colorado.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 2476

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 636, H.R. 2476, the Udall of Colorado substitute amendment which is at the desk be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed; the Udall of Colorado title amendment which is at the desk be agreed to; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; and any statements relating to the matter be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator Kyl and Senator McCain, I respectfully object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, if I might, I would like to yield to Senator Barrasso from Wyoming to discuss the important bill that was just objected to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. It was a privilege for me to cosponsor this piece of legislation with the distinguished Senator from Colorado. My colleague Senator Enzi and I have long been advocates of allowing an additional opportunity for jobs and for economic development into the wonderful ski areas around Rocky Mountain West, which is the intent of this bill. It really is aimed at increasing ski seasons that a number of these locations, if you will, on Forest Service land can use that land for an extended season, which would then work toward full-time, year-round employment for the folks in those areas, putting in things such as zip lines and opportunities for recreational advancements to increase the amount of tourism, the amount of visitors to these wonderful places people like to enjoy. We think additional opportunities and enhancements would allow for additional employment. That is why Senator Enzi and I joined with Senator Udall in support of his efforts on this important piece of legislation.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, thank both Senators from Wyoming for their support. I know we will go back to work in the next Congress because, as the Senator pointed out, this bipartisan bill would provide clear authority for the Forest Service to allow additional summertime use of ski areas which would help create jobs and enhance economic activities in ski country. It is no cost. It is common sense, as the Senator pointed out. That is why it not only has support from the two Wyoming Senators but also Senators Risch, Ensign, Bennett, and Gregg. It was favorably reported out of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee in September. The CBO projects it will actually generate revenue for the Federal budget and will help improve the quality of life for a lot of hard-hit mountain communities.

Mr. President, we passed a number of other bills out of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee that, unfortunately, will not receive votes in this Congress. I want to touch on a couple of them.

I begin with the National Forest Insect Disease Emergency Act. I have been working on this concern for the entire time I have served in the Congress, whether in the Senate or the House. We have an enormous bark beetle epidemic in our Western forests. Those who study our forests say that because of climate change and drought and human activity, these epidemics will become more and more common. What the bill would have done is provided the tools and resources to the Forest Service to help address this serious natural disaster. It is slow moving but nonetheless a natural disaster. That disaster is the deaths of millions and millions of acres of trees due to insect infestations.

Senators CRAPo and Risch were cosponsors. It is a very significant disappointment that we didn’t move to consider this bill. I know it would have passed the Senate.

Another bill is the Leadville Mine Drainage Tunnel Act, common sense legislation that would directly benefit a community in Colorado and, indeed, the entire Arkansas River Valley, one of the significant watersheds in the State of Colorado. This mine drainage tunnel near Leadville, if it was back up with a large volume of contaminated water which then created a safety hazard to the community, but it was unclear whether the Bureau of Reclamation or the Environmental Protection Agency was responsible for addressing it.

My bill would clarify that the Bureau of Reclamation has the authority to treat this backed-up water and is responsible for maintaining the tunnel so that in the future these kinds of threats will not arise and, if they do, it is clear who is responsible to mitigate them. It is a straightforward bill. It doesn’t cost anything. It would give the people of Leadville the certainty they have needed for years.

Finally, I wish to mention the Sugar Loaf Fire Protection District Land Exchange Act. This would help protect public safety. It facilitates a fair exchange of lands on the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest near Boulder between the Forest Service and the Sugar Loaf Fire District. The fire district is responsible for maintaining fire stations which then work toward full-time, year-round employment for the folks in those areas, putting in things such as zip lines and opportunities for recreational advancements to increase the amount of tourism, the amount of visitors to these wonderful places people like to enjoy. We think additional opportunities and enhancements would allow for additional employment. That is why Senator Enzi and I joined with Senator Udall in support of his efforts on this important piece of legislation.

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