

I yield the floor.

GREAT APE PROTECTION AND COST SAVING ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, consistent with Senate standing orders and my policy of publishing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a statement whenever I place a hold on legislation, I am announcing my intention to object to any unanimous consent request to proceed to and pass S. 810, the Great Ape Protection and Cost Saving Act.

Oregon is home to one of the eight National Institutes of Health, NIH-supported National Primate Research Centers, and it is already subject to strong local and national oversight to ensure the highest quality and ethical care for animals. These Centers provide outstanding research and powerful research tools that are vital to our understanding of human health and disease and hold enormous potential for finding treatments for life-threatening disorders.

While ensuring the highest quality and ethical care for animals is of utmost importance, there is already significant oversight and regulation of these facilities.

In addition to meeting the high standards required by NIH to obtain and retain Federal health research dollars, centers are also already responsible for meeting the lengthy, detailed and often-updated Federal requirements within the Animal Welfare Act. Facilities are subject to thorough, regular, and unannounced inspections by U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services and are subject to regulations from the Public Health Service, PHS, and Food and Drug Administration, FDA. Experiments must also be approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, IACUC, at the Institution where the scientist works before research can begin.

While I support protecting animals from unethical and inhumane treatment, the NIH is in the process of reviewing and implementing related recommendations from the Institute of Medicine. At this stage, passing legislation would circumvent this ongoing process. For this reason, I object to the Senate taking up and passing S. 810.

TRIBUTE TO 405TH CIVIL AFFAIRS BATTALION

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to welcome home some of our Nation's greatest servicemembers. This weekend, 29 soldiers from the great State of Nevada will be reunited with their families and loved ones after a grueling 9-month tour in Afghanistan. They have served our country with honor, and I am proud to welcome them home to the Silver State.

Nevada is grateful to these soldiers for their unwavering commitment to America. I want to thank them for

fighting bravely for this Nation. I am humbled for their service to our country, and it is a privilege to help welcome them home.

Earlier this year, the North Las Vegas-based Army Reserve Delta Company, 405th Civil Affairs Battalion was deployed to fight the war in Afghanistan. Each and every day of their tour, this company faced dangerous situations in order to our protect freedom and democracy. Participating in missions to some of the most volatile provinces of eastern Afghanistan, they encountered deadly firefights and roadside bombs. This company's courageous acts have been awarded with 5 Purple Heart medals, 18 Army Commendation medals, and 7 Bronze Star medals for meritorious service. These decorated soldiers have made significant sacrifices for our country, and I am so grateful they have the opportunity to return home to their families.

The brave men and women in our Armed Forces have made grave sacrifices on behalf of our Nation and we owe them a debt of gratitude. The families of our troops also deserve our heartfelt appreciation for their unwavering strength and support.

I wish these soldiers a joyful homecoming this weekend and happy holiday season with their loved ones. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring this company for their service to our country.

CONGRATULATING TEA IMPORTERS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate a father and son team and their family from Westport, CT, whose company, Tea Importers, Inc., was recently recognized by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton with the 2012 Award for Corporate Excellence.

Every year, the Secretary of State honors two American owned, global companies, that are both successful and humanitarian. They are companies doing well and doing good. This year, Joseph and Andrew Wertheim of Tea Importers, Inc. were celebrated as international leaders of fair trade standards, democratic principles, and diplomacy in the small-medium sized category. Intel Corporation received this year's award in the large business category.

After escaping from Nazi Germany, Joseph Wertheim settled in Connecticut and began importing tea in 1953. Since then, he has grown his company and forged strong ties with customer tea companies in the United States, Canada, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. In 1960, he began working to market and import tea from Rwanda, and developed a particularly strong relationship with the Government of Rwanda, who requested that Mr. Wertheim partner with them in building a tea processing factory. What started as the first facility in a remote area in Kigali, Rwanda, has grown into

the largest single producer of tea in the entire African nation.

This tea factory named Sorwathe has helped the people of Rwanda make remarkable progress. Sorwathe ensures equal working conditions for its 5,242 employees, guided by the principle that every small farmer is a stake holder. In addition, Sorwathe has assisted the Government of Rwanda in building roads, bringing in water, and working with the USAID to start schools and medical clinics. The Wertheims and Tea Importers have worked with Rotary International to teach literacy to at least 15,000 adults, fund the town's public library, and provide high school scholarships. Their efforts have helped to ban child labor and facilitate collective bargaining agreements. Sorwathe has implemented environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, and organic farming, and formed alliances with important organizations in support of these efforts, to include the Rainforest Alliance and Ethical Tea Partnership. These accomplishments give you a sense of the spirit that guides this company that is financially successful, environmental conscious, and socially aware.

This small business of only six domestic employee in Westport has furthered American diplomacy around the world. As Secretary of State Clinton said in her address at last month's awards ceremonies, our businesses operating abroad are "how millions and millions of people find out about our values, what we really stand for, what kind of people we are." I saw firsthand this spirit of inclusivity when I attended this awards ceremony. Video conferencing was set up to include both employees of Sorwathe and members of Intel's office in Vietnam inviting all members of those innovative ventures to be congratulated and acknowledged.

I congratulate Joseph and Andrew Wertheim and all employees of Tea Importers, Inc. and Sorwathe in this well-deserved award, which highlights how a family-owned business can make an enormous impact on a global scale.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO C.W. FLOYD

● Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I would like to honor C.W. Floyd, Vietnam veteran, skeet-shooting champion, advocate for servicemembers everywhere, friend, and one of my longtime staff. On December 22, 2012, C.W. will retire after more than 30 years of service in and to the military. Although his retirement is much deserved, his absence will leave a void that will be hard to fill. In our extensive search to find a replacement for him, it has become clear that finding an ever-smiling, gun-collecting war veteran who provides the office with doughnuts is no easy task.

Mr. Floyd gave the U.S. Army 22 years of service, including a tour of