

Ignoring and denying abuse and accountability delays the progress of nation building and the creation of the stable, multiethnic democracy it seeks.

A truly independent international investigation with credible accountability will give Sri Lanka the ability to reconcile its past and build a peaceful future. The people of Sri Lanka deserve to know the truth.

#### TRIBUTE TO HARRIET HAGEMAN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, it is fitting that Harriet Hageman will be inducted into the 2011 Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. Harriet is known across Wyoming and across our Nation as a stalwart promoter and defender of agriculture. With this honor, she is following in the footsteps of her father Jim Hageman, who was previously inducted in the Agriculture Hall of fame in 2002.

Harriet comes from a long history of agricultural producers. Her great grandfather homesteaded in Wyoming in 1879 and her parents bought their first ranch near Fort Laramie in 1961. Harriet grew up on the family's cattle ranches in the Fort Laramie area. Rather than pursuing a career in agriculture, she earned a law degree from the University of Wyoming. Yet she did not stray from the agriculture industry. Much of her legal practice has been focused on protecting agriculture's land, water, and natural resources. She uses her Ag background coupled with her fine mind to effectively argue on behalf of Wyoming's ranchers and farmers in courtrooms at all levels of the judiciary.

A few of her many accomplishments should be noted. Harriet was the lead attorney for the State of Wyoming in protecting its share of the North Platte River. She fought the USDA to protect Wyoming's access to national forest lands. She successfully defended Wyoming's Open Range Law before the Wyoming Supreme Court. Her clients include ranchers, farmers, irrigation districts and grazing permittees. Harriet represents them with a passion that can only come from love of agriculture.

I have had the honor of working with Harriet Hageman and have benefitted from her wisdom. I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Harriet on this well-deserved honor.

#### TRIBUTE TO NIELS HANSEN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, at Wyoming's State Fair, I will have the honor of inducting Niels Hansen into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Forty-eight percent of Wyoming's 97,100 square miles are managed by the Federal Government. Often, a Wyoming ranch will consist of a checkerboard of public and private lands. Running a profitable ranch, while negotiating various Federal and State regulations, is a challenge. However, Niels Hansen has done just that operating

the PH Livestock Company. Niels is known as the public lands ranching leader of Wyoming. He has dedicated himself to building relationships with Federal land managers. He creates partnerships and opens lines of communication with fellow ranchers and government agencies. According to my friend, Wyoming Stock Growers Association vice president Jim Magana, Niels is highly recognized for his relentless efforts to maintain sustainable public land ranching.

Niels' efforts not only benefit his four-generation Wyoming ranch, he is also an asset to agriculturalists across Wyoming. He has worked closely with the Bureau of Land Management's, BLM, field office range staff and has been a State leader on agreements in conjunction with the BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and the Wyoming State Grazing Board. Realizing that energy is the backbone of Wyoming's economy, Neils has brought oil and gas developers to the table.

Anna Helm, Niels' sister and ranch partner, said, "Many ranchers have come to depend upon his insightful wisdom, understanding of the issues and willing leadership to help them through difficult times of their own."

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Niels Hansen, the 2011 inductee into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. Wyoming lands—both public and private—are better because of his service.

#### NIOBRARA COUNTY, WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Centennial of Niobrara County, WY.

The residents of Niobrara County are fortunate to live in such a timeless and scenic place. Nearly 2,500 residents live in the communities of Lusk, Manville, Lance Creek, and Van Tassel. Its many natural wonders that fill the landscape make Niobrara one of the top places to visit in the State. Part of the county includes land set aside and known as the Thunder Basin National Grasslands. This area provides a valuable habitat for Wyoming's wildlife and numerous recreation opportunities for its residents. Two rivers, the Cheyenne and the Niobrara, run through the county and can be credited for creating rich, fertile soil in the area.

Although Niobrara County is one of the smallest counties in the State, it certainly has one of the most fascinating histories. The county boasts a wide array of prehistoric dinosaur fossils at its premier Spanish Diggings site. Several rare artifacts have been found and are displayed in national exhibits. The region also saw heavy traffic from Native Americans who used the grasslands as prime hunting and camping areas. Members of the Lakota Sioux, the Cheyenne, and the Kiowa tribes settled in the area many years ago.

With the great westward expansion came the greater urbanization of the

West. Niobrara County was not immune from such development—instead, it embraced the changes. The grassland area of the county became a popular area for fur traders, homesteaders, and other emigrants caught in the throes of gold rush excitement. One popular stage stop, Running Water, was located along the banks of the Niobrara River and was used by several travelers as a spot to rest and refuel. The Cheyenne-Deadwood Stage Route, which traveled the length of the county, provided important transport of freight, gold, and passengers. This important route and the additional stage lines which passed through were essential to the development of the county.

Today, the residents of Niobrara County have capitalized on that industrious spirit. Thanks to the temperate climate and the fertile soil in the Powder River Basin, Niobrara County's primary industry is agriculture. The county's farmers consistently produce profitable crops like grain, wheat, and beans, and its ranchers work diligently in livestock production. The county's vast mineral resources played a key role in the county's robust economy. Several minerals and precious metals have been discovered and mined in the grasslands of Niobrara County. Both gold and silver were discovered and mined in the early days of settlement. Later, uranium was discovered near Lusk, a discovery which sparked a statewide boom in uranium drilling. Finally, the discovery of oil in Lance Creek was perhaps the most profitable of all mineral extraction. During World War II, Lance Creek was one of the country's important oil rigs, producing vast amounts of oil needed for the American war effort.

It is an honor to help the residents of Niobrara County celebrate their 100th anniversary. I invite my colleagues to visit this enterprising community in person. The residents of Niobrara County should be proud to present this heritage to visitors from all over the world.

#### UCON, IDAHO

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge the centennial anniversary of the founding of the city of Ucon, ID. On August 13, 2011, the citizens of Ucon will gather at Simmons Park to commemorate its 100th year and unveil a monument to its founders. This is a very historic and special day for this community.

Once a barren wilderness, the city of Ucon is an example of the Western spirit and determination in making the desert bloom. First colonized in 1884 by George Simmons, early settlers were confronted with challenging terrain. Despite the harsh conditions, the settlement quickly grew. Within 13 years, a church, school, amusement hall, and several dozen homes were built. In 1898, the power of steam and iron transformed the town with the introduction