

billion from farm programs. This legislation could result in a farm crisis far worse than the one that gave birth to Farm Aid.

The 1995 farm bill is far too important to be sacrificed this way. That's why several of my colleagues have joined me in introducing the Farm Security Act, an alternative way to reform farm programs and secure a safety net for our farmers. We have developed a commodity support proposal that would allow market-based income support, target benefits to our smaller producers, and simplify programs. Unlike the Republican plan, our plan offers real reform. We didn't just cut funding levels by providing less of the same old programs that are already too complicated, too rigid and too inadequate.

The goal of farm programs should be to give America's farmers and rural communities a fair shake. Farmers do not want a handout. They do not want welfare. They want a program that reflects the principles that launched Farm Aid 10 years ago: a helping hand that lets them grow the best food and fiber in the world with minimal bureaucracy and with a good return on their financial and labor investments. Today, however, farm programs have become, in the minds of some people who have never milked a cow or plowed a field, a sacrificial lamb that can be offered up to fund new defense programs and unreasonable tax breaks.

For many farm families across the country, the organizations supported by Farm Aid have been all that stood between them and disaster. The counseling, educational and legal services these groups provide have helped farm families navigate some very difficult times. In my State of South Dakota, Dakota Rural Action, a Farm Aid-supported group, has been an effective voice for family farmers and rural communities. Through grassroots organization, educational programming on issues from land stewardship to meatpacker concentration, and effective policy advocacy, they have brought the voices of farmers to the halls of Congress.

I am deeply concerned about how rural communities across the Nation continue to whither as more and more farmers are driven off their land and young people find it increasingly difficult to begin farming. Now that the majority in Congress has threatened to pull the rug out from under our farmers again, Farm Aid and the groups it supports will be needed more than ever to provide support and leadership for our rural communities.

The strengths of rural America have always been hard work, fair play and commitment to community. I applaud the efforts of Farm Aid to facilitate these goals and secure a bright future for America's farmers and ranchers. There is a reason why the Midwest is called America's Heartland. It is because our farmers, ranchers and rural citizens truly represent the heart and

soul of America. If we continue to take for granted the men and women who live on the land and produce our food, we will lose an important piece of our national soul.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, 30 years ago today on September 29, 1995, I was proud to witness President Lyndon Johnson sign into law the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act which established the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. That historic occasion marked the beginning of a process to preserve America's cultural heritage and to broaden access to millions of our citizens in every corner of the country, Americans who would otherwise not be able to hear a symphony orchestra concert, see a dance or theater production, or experience a great museum exhibition.

By any measure, the endowments have been a magnificent success. People are participating in our culture in record numbers. The endowments have made a difference in the lives of millions of children and their families. A cultural infrastructure has solidified and grown. In 1965, where there were 46 nonprofit theaters, there are over 425 today. The numbers of large orchestras has doubled, opera companies have increased 6-fold, and there are 10 times as many dance companies now as there were 30 years ago. In 1965, there were five State arts agencies; today every State has a vibrant public arts agency, and there are now community arts agencies in over 3,800 cities, counties and towns. Individuals who have received endowment support early in their careers have gone on to spectacular achievement, earning numerous important prizes and awards, and creating works that will prove to be an enduring legacy from the second half of the 20th century.

In my own State of Rhode Island, the endowments have supported a Music in our Schools program in Providence, a folk and traditional arts apprenticeship program and the nationally-acclaimed Trinity Repertory Theater; aided the Museum of Art at the Rhode Island School of Design in renovating its painting and sculpture facilities; and provided funds to a team of scholars at the Rhode Island Historical Society to edit the papers of Revolutionary War Gen. Nathaniel Greene for publication. Also funded was a partnership between the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and the U.S. Department of Education to integrate theater, music and design into the curriculum of the Davies Career and Technical High School which has shown to improve overall discipline and attendance at the school.

As further testimony to their success, the small investments in American culture made by the endowments

has stimulated an extraordinary amount of private dollars. Since 1985, NEH matching funds have leveraged almost \$1.4 billion in third-party support for the humanities. Each Federal dollar invested by NEA leverages \$12 non-Federal dollars.

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the endowments, we are celebrating our belief in a vigorous, democratic, far-reaching culture. The Federal Government has a strong role to play in transmitting our Nation's greatest artistic and scholarly achievements to the generations of the future. As the present custodians of American culture, we must continue to do so. It would be a tragedy for the 30th anniversary celebration to be marred by a reluctance to reauthorize the National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities.

UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR THE PEACE PROCESS IN LIBERIA

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the recent cease-fire agreement in Liberia. After nearly 6 years of civil war, 13 failed peace agreements and protracted negotiations, the leaders of Liberia's warring factions have finally coalesced to form a government aimed at bringing peace and democracy to this war-torn African nation. This recent peace agreement, agreed to on August 19, 1995, in Abuja Nigeria, provides the United States with a unique opportunity to demonstrate leadership in restoring peace and democracy to a longtime ally, as well as to prove its concern for the stability of the entire West African region.

Mr. President, I would like to begin my statement by identifying several key actors who deserve recognition for procuring this peace agreement: Members of ECOWAS, the Economic Community of West African States, ECOMOG, the West African peace-keeping force, UNOMIL, the U.N. observer mission, and the President's Special Envoy to Liberia, Ambassador Dane Smith, I would particularly commend the extraordinary diplomatic leadership shown by President Jerry Rawlings of Ghana and his Deputy Foreign Minister Muhamed Ibn Chambas. I know and greatly admire both men; their commitment to peace in Liberia is exemplary and is one of the key reasons why this cease-fire and agreement have been archived.

On a local level, I would like to pay special tribute to my esteemed colleague on the Foreign Relations Committee, the distinguished Senator from Kansas. As Chair of the Subcommittee on African Affairs, she is a strong leader, an able manager, a model for bipartisanship, and a tremendous resource on issues regarding African affairs. Last week, Senator KASSEBAUM introduced amendment 2710, stating that it is in the interest of the United States to "strongly support the peace process