(1) VOLUNTARY COOPERATION.—In carrying out this title, the Commission and Secretary shall emphasize voluntary cooperation.

(2) RULES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS, AND PERMIT PROCESSES.—Nothing in this title shall be considered to impose or form the basis for imposition of any environmental, occupational, safety, or other rule, regulation, standard, or permit process that is different from those that would be applicable had the Corridor not been established.

(3) ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY STANDARDS.—Nothing in this title shall be considered to impose the application or administration of any Federal or State environmental quality standard that is different from those that will be applicable had the Corridor not been established.

(4) WATER STANDARDS.—Nothing in this title shall be considered to impose any Federal or State water use designation or water quality standard upon uses of, or discharges to, waters of the State or waters of the United States, within or adjacent to the Corridor, that is more restrictive than those that would be applicable had the Corridor not been established.

(5) PERMITTING OF FACILITIES.—Nothing in the establishment of the Corridor shall abridge, restrict, or alter any applicable rule, regulation, standard, or review procedure for permitting of facilities within or adjacent to the Corridor.

(6) WATER FACILITIES.—Nothing in the establishment of the Corridor shall affect the continuing use and operation, repair, rehabilitation, expansion, or new construction of water supply facilities, water and wastewater treatment facilities, stormwater facilities, public utilities, and common carriers.

(7) WATER AND WATER RIGHTS.—Nothing in the establishment of the Corridor shall be considered to authorize or imply the reservation or appropriation of water or water rights for any purpose.

(b) RESTRICTIONS ON COMMISSION AND SECRETARY.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to vest in the Commission or the Secretary the authority to—

(1) require a Federal agency, State agency, political subdivision of the State, or private person (including an owner of private property) to participate in a project or program carried out by the Commission or the Secretary under the title;

(2) intervene as a party in an administrative or judicial proceeding concerning the application or enforcement of a regulatory authority of a Federal agency, State agency, or political subdivision of the State, including, but not limited to, authority relating to—

(A) land use regulation;

(B) environmental quality;

(C) licensing;

(D) permitting;

(E) easements;

(F) private land development; or

(G) other occupational or access issue;

(3) establish or modify a regulatory authority of a Federal agency, State agency, or political subdivision of the State, including authority relating to—

(A) land use regulation;

(B) environmental quality; or

(C) pipeline or utility crossings;

(4) modify a policy of a Federal agency, State agency, or political subdivision of the State;

(5) attest in any manner the authority and jurisdiction of the State with respect to the acquisition of lands or water, or interest in lands or water;

(6) vest authority to reserve or appropriate water or water rights in any entity for any purpose;

(7) deny, condition, or restrict the construction, repair, rehabilitation, or expansion of water facilities, including stormwater, water, and wastewater treatment facilities; or

(8) deny, condition, or restrict the exercise of water rights in accordance with the substantive and procedural requirements of the laws of the State.

(c) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this title shall diminish, enlarge, or modify a right of a Federal agency, State agency, or political subdivision of the State—

(1) to exercise civil and criminal jurisdiction within the Corridor; or

(2) to tax persons, corporations, franchises, or property, including minerals and other interests in or on lands or waters within the urban portions of the Corridor.

(d) ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY.—Nothing in this title requires an owner of private property to allow access to the property by the public.

SEC. 113. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated not to exceed $50,000 to the Commission to carry out this Act for each of the first 5 fiscal years following the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) MATCHING FUNDS.—Funds may be made available pursuant to this section only to the extent they are matched by equivalent funds or in-kind contributions of services or materials from non-Federal sources.

The title was amended so as to read:

''A Bill To Establish the Cache La Poudre River Corridor''.

PRESIDIO PROPERTIES ADMINISTRATION ACT

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now turn to the consideration of H.R. 4236.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4236) to provide for the administration of certain Presidio properties at minimal cost to the Federal taxpayer, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today the Senate is considering the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, H.R. 4236. I rise to speak in support of this important legislation and to urge my colleagues to render their support.

H.R. 4236 evidences a Herculean effort by the entire membership of this Congress as the provisions of the legislation will touch and affect the width and breadth of our great Nation. The Washington Post noted in an editorial today that

[i]t's amazing what a Congress finally comes down to. The members spend two years making speeches and otherwise taking positions on the great issues of the time, whatever those may be. Then it turns out that what they really care about are not those lofty issues at all but lesser items. . . . this year's case in point involves the parks bill still before the Senate.

Contrary to the cynical and negative view of the Washington Post, I am of the belief that this legislation is of primary importance to the people of my great home State of Mississippi and to the people of this great Nation. Why do I say this? Clearly, the thousands of phone calls and letters that I have received expressing the importance of the many worthy projects and goals as set forth in this bill—projects such as the Corinth, MS, battlefield interpretive center and the Natchez National Historical Park visitor's center—are evidence of the support these projects have received and of their importance. The support in my home State has been overwhelming as many individuals and groups have worked tirelessly to preserve and protect the heritage of our great State as well as to provide the proper surroundings and facilities for visitors to these cities from Mississippi and from other States.

What could be a more worthy goal of our efforts and what could provide our people with better examples of what is right with America? Our parks are a refuge from the tediousness of our daily work lives and from the sense of frustration we feel as we watch the world change around us. Our parks reassure us that this country will preserve the heritage that has made our country great.

And where do these attitudes develop from which we seek this refuge? Why, from the media's constant highlighting of the negative factors we face rather from the hope and optimism that produces change and improvement, of course.

A famous American once remarked that he preferred death to a loss of liberty. Mr. President, I prefer the worthy goals envisioned in this legislation and the efforts to achieve those goals to the negativism of the media—give me the enjoyment, serenity, and educational opportunities provided by our parks and permit me to pass on the negativism provided by the Washington Post.

Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to commend the people of the Corinth and Natchez areas of Mississippi for their dedication to the goals that we achieve by the passage of this legislation today. To them I say, well done, good and faithful servants and protectors of the public interest.

Mr. President, I would also like to take this opportunity to commend the leadership and tenacity of my friend and colleague, the Senator from Alaska, the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator MURKOWSKI. He has represented his State well in this matter and has never lost sight of the best interests of the country as a whole.

Mr. President, I have concerns that we have not adequately addressed private property rights in this bill as we could and should have done. We could and should have done more to adequately address private property rights protection in every aspect as those rights are affected by Federal law. I pledge my continued support to those efforts in the next Congress. However,

despite such failure, the worthiness of this legislation and the good it will do for the people of Mississippi and the rest of the United States has convinced me to strongly support this bill and to urge my colleagues to give H.R. 4236 their strong support.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of this legislation which addresses the urgent needs of many national parks across our country.

This bill is important to maintaining the historical integrity of Virginia's national parks and provides additional protections and recognition for 10 historically significant Civil War battlefields in the Shenandoah Valley.

This legislation also includes a provision I have sponsored for many years authorizing a memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the District of Columbia. The Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, the oldest predominately African-American fraternity in the United States, will establish this memorial without cost to the Federal Government.

Freestanding legislation sponsored by Senator SARBANES and myself has been favorably reported from the Committee on Rules and Administration last year and in prior Congresses. This memorial will live as tangible recognition of Dr. King's remarkable contributions to our Nation. It ensures that his message of nonviolence and freedom for all must be passed from generation to generation.

In accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, Dr. King said:

> Nonviolence is the answer to crucial political and moral questions of our time; the need for man to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence.

Mr. President, I would be remiss not to commend Chairman MURKOWSKI of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the ranking member, Senator JOHNSTON for their determination to forge a bipartisan package and for their continued attention to the protection of Virginia's historic resources.

Throughout this Congress, the members of the Energy Committee have worked with me to advance the protections of the Civil War battlefields in the Shenandoah Valley and to provide for a modest expansion of both the Colonial National Historic Park and the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park.

The conference report on the Omnibus Parks bill before the Senate last week included additional provisions relating to the management of the Richmond National Battlefield Park and the boundaries of the Shenandoah National Park.

Mr. President, these provisions had the bipartisan support of the Virginia delegation and permitted the Park Service to improve the management and to expand the boundaries to include historically significant lands in these parks.

I am very disappointed that the administration did not concur with the views of the Virginia delegation and raised significant objections to these two provisions. While updating the boundaries of the Shenandoah National Park and expanding the boundaries of the Richmond National Park are very important to me and to those host local governments and citizens, I understand the need to move forward with this bill today.

Let me be clear, that I look forward to bringing these two matters back before the Senate next year. I know that with further discussions with the administration, the Park Service will understand our intent to respond to the resource needs of these parks.

Mr. President, despite these omissions, the matter before the Senate includes three provisions for Virginians that represent years of hard work, dedication, and commitment by many individuals at the local level.

I am very pleased that this bill provides for the expansion of the Colonial National Historic Park and the Cumberland Gap National Park, and brings long overdue national recognition to the Civil War battlefields in the Shenandoah Valley.

The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District is the product of an in-depth study by the National Park Service which was authorized by the Congress in 1990. The Park Service conducted field surveys of fifteen battlefields in the valley and concluded in their analysis that ''because of their size and unprotected status, the battlefields of the Shenandoah Valley were its most important most neglected, and most threatened resource.''

The legislation before the Senate today provides for the preservation and visitor understanding of the significant battlefields of McDowell, Cross Keys, Port Republic, Second Winchester, New Market, Fisher's Hill, Tom's Brook, Cedar Creek, Kernstown, and Opequon. The historic district also incorporates the historic transportation routes utilized by both Union and Confederate troops during the pivotal valley campaigns of 1862 and 1864.

Mr. President, throughout my service in this body, I have been actively involved in the preservation of Virginia's historic resources. One of my first initiatives in 1980 was to sponsor legislation to expand the boundaries of the Manassas National Battlefield Park by 1,522 acres. I am pleased that the Congress continues it's recognition of Virginia's rich history and contributions to our national heritage with the designation of the valley's battlefields as a historic district.

Many citizens committed to fostering the protection of these battlefields have worked diligently since the Park Service study began in 1990 to craft a consensus proposal that recognizes the limits of the Federal Government's resources to acquire substantial acreage in the valley and balances the needs of property owners and local governments to provide for their economic future.

I have remained committed to this effort because of the steadfast support and leadership by many local citizens, property owners, preservationists, and local government officials in the valley. They have given generously of their personal time to organize local meetings, testify before Congress, and work with the Park Service to advance our proposal. It is clear that our efforts today would not be possible without their firm resolve and passion to preserve these battlefields.

According to the Park Service, the areas in the valley possess significant historical integrity and remain in excellent condition for preservation.

The citizens of the valley are to be commended for their responsible stewardship over the years to protect these battlefields for future generations to enjoy and understand the tragedy of the Civil War in the valley. Today, this bill ensures that they will no longer be shouldering this effort alone. Today, the National Park Service becomes a full partner in this task.

The central feature of the historic district designation is to encourage and promote an atmosphere of cooperation between the Federal Government, State and local governments, property owners, and preservations groups.

We have been fortunate that the valley's predominately agricultural land uses have provided protection for these battlefields. This rural landscape, however, is rapidly changing.

Now is the time for the Federal Government to become a full partner with local and private efforts to bring national recognition and to develop a coordinated preservation strategy for these battlefields.

As noted in the Study of Civil War Sites in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia ''no single alternative is best suited to these sites. A balance must be achieved between preservation, the Valley lifestyle, and economic development * * *''.

In keeping with these recommendations, I believe the historic district designation with specific duties for the Park Service and Commission provides the right balance for preserving these battlefields.

With direct Federal assistance and resources, a commission comprised of local representatives and historians to devise a plan for stewardship, the authority for the Secretary and the commission to enter into cooperative arrangements with local governments and private landowners, we are achieving enormous protections for these national treasures and promoting compatible economic growth through heritage tourism.

Mr. President, the provision on the Colonial National Historic Park passed this body earlier this year and in prior Congresses. It authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey land and sewer lines to the County of York and authorizes the necessary funding to rehabilitate the Moore House sewer system to meet current Federal standards.

The necessity for this legislation is evident based on the growing needs of the county and the limitations of the National Park Service's ability to continue to provide sewer services to the local community.

In 1948 and 1956 Congress passed legislation which directed the National Park Service to design and construct sewer systems to serve Federal and non-Federal properties in the area of Yorktown, VA. In 1956, the National Park Service acquired easements from the board of supervisors of York County and the trustees of the town of York. At that time, York County was a rural area with limited financing and population. Now, York County has a fully functioning Department of Environmental Services which operates sewer systems throughout York County.

Negotiations to transfer the Yorktown and Moore House systems have been ongoing since the 1970's. This provision fulfills the commitments made between the Park Service and York County to provide for the full transfer of ownership to York County.

Equally important, is another element of the Colonial provision which permits the acquisition of a small parcel of land along the Colonial Parkway near Jamestown. This 20-acre parcel is critical to protect the scenic integrity of the parkway. This area has the narrowest right-of-way of any portion of the parkway.

The acquisition includes one row of lots adjoining the parkway in a rapidly developing residential neighborhood known as Page Landing. Development of those lots would have a severe impact on the scenic qualities of the parkway. In order to prevent any disturbances to this land, the conservation fund responded quickly to purchase this parcel. The Park Service identified this property as a high priority and the conservation fund intends to transfer title to the land to the Park Service.

The Colonial Parkway was authorized by Congress as part of the Colonial National Historic Park in the 1930's to connect Jamestown, Williamsburg, and Yorktown with a scenic limited access motor road. According to the 1938 act of Congress, the parkway corridor is to be an average of 500 feet in width. In most areas, the roadway was built in the middle of the corridor. In the area between Mill Creek and Neak O'Land road, however, the parkway was built closer to the northern boundary to avoid wetlands, placing the roadway very close to the adjoining private property.

This segment is the only area along the parkway where the National Park Service owns only 100 feet back from the centerline of the road. The Park Service owns 250 feet or more from the center line in all other areas of the 23-mile parkway in James City County and York County.

Mr. President, this bill ensures that the Colonial Parkway provides a consistent level of scenic integrity along the entire parkway that will well-serve the purpose of the parkway for years to come.

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about provisions in the omnibus parks bill that affect my State, Virginia. Our Commonwealth is rich in historic and natural resources and I am pleased to support a parks bill that establishes a national historic district in the Shenandoah Valley and authorizes improvements to the Colonial National Historical Park.

Mr. President, establishing a national historic district in the Shenandoah Valley will help preserve the legacy of the Civil War in the valley. We worked with people at the grassroots level to balance the interests of property owners, local and State government officials, and historic preservationists while providing a Federal presence to protect the battlefields from development. This new designation means the historic district will have the national recognition and resources of a national park unit, but it will enjoy complete local control.

This legislation also establishes a commission made up of landowners, preservationists, and local and State government officials to work cooperatively with the Park Service to preserve the battlefields. The Commission will have the power to administer and manage the park, while the Park Service will help with technical assistance and land acquisition.

Mr. President, we have also been working for years to make improvements at the Colonial National Historical Park, and this bill finally permits two actions that will improve the park's management. The parks bill authorizes a boundary adjustment to permit the Park Service to acquire property adjacent to the Colonial Parkway, the scenic 23-mile road connecting Jamestown Island, Williamsburg, and Yorktown.

The Colonial provision also allows the Park Service to transfer a sewage system to the appropriate service authority, York County. Managing the sewer system does not fall under the responsibilities of the Park Service and the transfer should have been completed years ago.

Mr. President, work remains on resolving boundary concerns for Shenandoah National Park and the Richmond Battlefields Park, and I am hopeful that the Virginia congressional delegation will work to achieve a solution in the 105th Congress. The progress we've made will provide a framework for the next Congress so we may finally address the concerns of private landowners, local governments, and preservationists.

In addition, Congress should move forward next year and pass legislation that highlights the special historical significance of the New Market Heights battlefield. Preservation of this area is important, for it marks the area where 14 black Federal soldiers won the Army Medal of Honor for Valor. The sacrifices of these soldiers were so notable that they helped ensure passage of the 13th amendment, which abolished slavery.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I am proud to represent a State interested in the protection of our natural, cultural, and historic resources. And that is why I stand in support of the Virginia provisions in this bill. The passage of this bill demonstrates our concern and commitment to preserving our national parks.

Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, I am extremely pleased that today the Senate is acting to ensure the preservation of Sterling Forest, a nationally significant tract of land in the Highlands area of New York State on the New Jersey border. This bill authorizes $17.5 million for establishment of a Sterling Forest Reserve and designates the Palisades Interstate Park Commission [PIPC] to manage the new entity. The over 15,000 acres of Sterling Forest we protect today is the last link needed to form an unbroken chain of 100,000 acres of parks and protected lands in the New York-New Jersey region—one of the biggest parcels of protected land east of the Mississippi River.

Not only do these lands contain a wide variety of wildlife and plants, but they also protect one-fourth of the drinking water for New Jersey and provide needed open space for about 20 million people in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan region.

The land will be purchased from willing sellers through a unique partnership of State, Federal, and private interests and will be managed by the PIPC, a New York-New Jersey parks management body. Since the PIPC currently manages 23 other parks, visited by over 8 million people each year, we can be assured that the reserve will be well cared for.

The Federal contribution authorized by this bill amounts to only a small portion of the total needed, but it is the crucial piece that makes the rest of the plan come together. Enactment of this bill also frees up $9 million for Sterling Forest land acquisition, contained in the recently-enacted Continuing resolution.

Although located entirely in New York State, the area affected by the bill represents some of the most critical New Jersey watershed still left undeveloped and in private hands. It also contains the largest unbroken tract of forest land still remaining along the New York-New Jersey border. This 20-square-mile parcel represents a complete range of wildlife habitat, hills and wetlands, and is home to a large number of threatened and endangered species.

The forest is crossed in the north by the Appalachian Trail, a unit of the National Park System, which is used heavily for hiking. Even better, this area provides a taste of the outdoors for a region where such experiences are at a premium. In fact, 1 in every 12

Americans lives within a 2-hour drive of its boundaries.

Most important for New Jersey, though, are the billions of gallons of fresh, clean drinking water that flow from within its boundaries. The Monkville/Wanaque reservoirs, which draw from the Sterling Forest watershed, serve one in four New Jerseyites and many New Yorkers as well. To threaten this watershed is to threaten the health and livelihood of millions of Americans or force taxpayers to pay many times the cost of this land for expensive water treatment facilities.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr President, it gives me great satisfaction to rise today in support of HR 4236, the Omnibus Parks bill. Although this bill became entangled in several battles on other issues, I think everyone will agree that passage of this legislation in its final configuration represents the Senate's commitment to passing small, yet locally very important legislation that otherwise could have gotten lost in the shuffle. In particular, I am pleased to see one provision that will reform the Forest Service's fee structure for ski area permits on Forest Service land. Last year, Senator MURKOWSKI and I introduced this bill to simplify the process of collecting fees from ski areas for use of Forest Service land.

When I introduced the bill with Senator MURKOWSKI, I emphasized the importance of this bill for ski areas across the country, but also the environmental importance of this bill. Skiing is one of the best uses that we have today on our national forests. The ski industry brings millions of people to the mountains to enjoy fresh air, scenery and the mountain environment. Few other national forest activities are able to host such intense public use with relatively minimal impact.

By refining the structure of the fee structure, operators of ski areas will be able to continue in this productive relationship with the Forest Service. The streamlined fee structure will also enable the Forest Service to move towards a fee system that is closer to fair market value. It also will save the Forest Service and the ski industry considerable time and money in collecting these fees.

It is my hope that through reforms such as this, the private sector and the Federal agencies that manage our public lands will continue to build a cooperative and productive relationship in protecting and providing access to our public lands.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Omnibus Parks package and I would like to note the inclusion of two very important components in this package for my State.

The first is authorization of $17.5 million for the Secretary of the Interior to purchase over 15,000 acres of the Sterling Forest. This land, located in New York, is the source of drinking water for 25 percent of New Jersey households. Located just 35 miles from New York City, Sterling Forest contains excellent recreational and scenic opportunities and is habitat to hundreds of animal species. The developer of this land, a Swiss company, had plans to develop thousands of residential units and millions of square feet of commercial space. This legislation will ensure that these plans do not go forward. The Sterling Forest Corp. agreed to sell the property for $55 million. The Federal contribution will complement a commitment of $20 million from the governments of New York and New Jersey, and several million dollars from numerous private contributions.

Mr. President, my colleague from New Jersey, Senator BRADLEY, and I sponsored legislation to protect the Sterling Forest and I am pleased to see it included in the package before us today.

Mr. President, I am also pleased that the bill before us contains another important piece of legislation that Senator BRADLEY and I introduced—S. 188, to designate the Great Falls Historic District in Paterson, NJ. Mr. President, the Great Falls area of Paterson is known as the birthplace of the industrial revolution. In 1791, Alexander Hamilton, as Secretary of the Treasury, founded the Society for the Establishment of Useful Manufacturers at the Great Falls. He used the Great Falls to supply power to various mills and factories, thereby allowing Paterson to become one of the world's great industrial cities.

This legislation allows the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements to preserve and interpret Paterson's history. This historic and cultural recognition would provide a great boost for jobs and economic development in Paterson and will complement an urban revitalization program under the leadership of Mayor William Pascrell.

I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this important package.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, this omnibus parks legislation is a tremendous victory for the entire Nation.

This landmark bill will protect natural and historic resources in 41 States, including four areas of particular importance in Massachusetts. Senator KERRY and I have worked closely on these provisions with Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman FRANK MURKOWSKI and Senate Parks Subcommittee Chairman BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL and the ranking members of the committee and subcommittee, Senators BENNETT JOHNSTON and DALE BUMPERS. We commend them and thank them for their great assistance and support.

The omnibus legislation establishes a new Whaling National Historical Park in New Bedford, which will preserve and showcase dozens of historic buildings that will appear much as they did in the whaling industry's heyday. The park will include the Seamen's Bethel—the church in Moby Dick where the narrator heard Father Mapple offer prayers for sailors before setting out to sea. It will also include the *Ernestina*, the restored, century-old vessel that is the oldest Grand Banks schooner in existence and is now moored in New Bedford's port.

Another important feature of the park is the Old Dartmouth Historical Society's Whaling Museum, which houses the world's premier whaling archives and art collection. The museum's library contains thousands of ship logs, charts, maps, photos and other records documenting the history of whaling in America.

Another important feature and demonstration of the strong private sector commitment to this park is the Visitor Center, located in an historic building that was donated last year by the Fleet Bank.

I'm also pleased that the park will encourage cooperation with a North Slope Cultural Center being developed in Barrow, AK where whaling is still a way of life.

The New Bedford National Whaling Historical Park will provide a significant boost to the economy of the region, as more and more visitors come to New Bedford to learn about its extraordinary history.

The omnibus parks legislation also creates a Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area, which will preserve historic and cultural sites, expand recreational opportunities, and improve public access to the 31 picturesque islands that are found throughout Boston harbor.

Each of these islands bears an indelible mark from past eras of the Nation's history. Their names alone capture the imagination—Hangman Island, Bumpkin Island, Moon Island, Castle Island, Spectacle Island, Hog Island, Raccoon Island, Snake Island, Nut Island, World's End Island, each with its own story and tradition.

During the past three centuries, the islands' lighthouses and Revolutionary War-era fortifications have played a strategic role in the defense of Boston communities. Boston Light, which began operation in 1716 and is now the oldest continuously operating lighthouse in the country, is located on Little Brewster Island.

Today, the islands offer abundant opportunities for visitors to enjoy swimming, fishing, camping, digging clams, picking berries, catching butterflies, watching birds and whales, and hiking on well-maintained trails. All of the islands offer spectacular views of the modern Boston skyline and the Atlantic Ocean.

The preservation of the Boston Harbor Islands has long-standing bipartisan support, and I am confident that the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area will serve as a magnet to attract visitors to the many other cultural attractions in the Boston area.

The omnibus parks bill also creates the Essex County Heritage District to protect the region's natural resources and emphasize its historic role in the

Nation's development. Essex County already includes 23 National Historic Landmarks, nearly 80 historic districts, and wharfs, shipyards, meeting house, textile mills, and numerous shoe factories that bear witness to the early settlements of the United States, and the area's emergence as a maritime and industrial power.

The region also has extensive natural and scenic resources—marshlands, beaches, harbors, rocky farmlands and islands—which amply demonstrate why maritime pursuits and water-powered industrial development first began here. The National Heritage Area will help ensure that visitors discover the many historic assets throughout Essex County.

Finally, the omnibus parks legislation enables the Blackstone River National Heritage Corridor to continue to ensure that this region's unique heritage as the cradle of America's Industrial Revolution is preserved for generations to come. It adds five more communities to the Corridor—Worcester and Leicester in Massachusetts and Burrillville, Glocester, and Smithfield in Rhode Island. In addition, the bill extends the life of the Commission overseeing the Corridor for an additional 10 years, through 2006. The Blackstone Valley program has been a remarkable success and deserves this vote of confidence by Congress to continue this important work.

The Nation will benefit immeasurably from the important parks provisions in this legislation. The omnibus parks bill is a significant investment in our Nation's natural and historical resources, and I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their skillful work in developing this impressive bipartisan legislation. I urge the Senate to approve it.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the omnibus parks and public lands legislation which is expected to pass the Senate today, clearing the way for the President's signature. This legislation contains numerous important provisions to preserve and protect our Nation's scenic rivers and historic land areas. I am pleased that, after many days of negotiations, we have reached agreement on this important environmental legislation.

Included in this comprehensive package is a bill to designate the Lamprey River in New Hampshire as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Recognizing the window of opportunity was closing, I recently fought to bring the Lamprey bill to a vote in the Senate, but unfortunately, I was blocked by the Democratic leader on two separate occasions. I continue to express my disappointment with the Clinton administration and Senate Democrats for holding up legislation that is so important to New Hampshire and many other States around the country.

Even though the Lamprey River bill received unanimous support out of committee in the Senate, and it has passed the House of Representatives unanimously, the Democratic Party had objected to its passing in the Senate simply on the basis of partisan politics. I think the people of New Hampshire deserve better than that. They deserve to have partisan politics put aside for the sake of our environment.

On August 10, 1995, Senator GREGG and I introduced S. 1174, the Lamprey Wild and Scenic River Act, to designate a segment of the Lamprey River in New Hampshire as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Since introduction, a hearing was held on the legislation in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and soon thereafter, the bill was reported unanimously out of the committee.

The history of this legislation goes back almost 5 years when Senator Rudman and I introduced the Lamprey River study bill in February 1991, which was subsequently signed into law by President Bush later that year. Once the National Park Service determined the Lamprey River's eligibility for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, a local advisory committee was formed to work with local communities, landowners, the National Park Service and New Hampshire's environment department in preparing a comprehensive management plan. This management plan was completed in January 1995.

The Lamprey River Management Plan was subsequently endorsed by the advisory committee as well as the local governments affected by this designation. The primary criteria for my sponsorship of this legislation was the support of the local communities. If the affected towns did not vote in favor of designation, it would not have received my enthusiastic support.

In fact, the town of Epping had expressed some reservation about designating the segment of the Lamprey which runs through the town and, out of respect for their concerns, the bill excludes that segment of the river. However, that segment was studied and found to be eligible, so we have included a section in our bill that would allow the town of Epping to be involved in the implementation of the management plan and, upon the town's request, be considered for future designation.

The Lamprey River is well deserving of this designation for a number of reasons. Not only is the river listed on the 1982 National Park Service's inventory of outstanding rivers, but it has also been recognized by the State of New Hampshire as the ''most important coastal river for anadromous fish in the State.'' Herring, shad and salmon are among the anadromous species found in the river. In fact, New Hampshire fishing maps describe the Lamprey as ''a truly exeptional river offering a vast variety of fishing. It contains every type of stream and river fish you could expect to find in New England.''

The Lamprey is approximately 60 miles in length and serves as the major tributary for the great Bay, which is part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. The Great Bay Refuge is also nearby, which was established several years ago following the closure of Pease Air Force Base. The preservation of the Lamprey is a significant component to protecting this entire ecosystem.

The 11.5-mile segment, as proposed by our legislation, has been the focus of local protection efforts for many years. The towns of Lee, Durham, and Newmarket, local conservationists, the State government, as well as the congressional delegation have all come together in support of this legislation. I believe the management philosophy adopted by the advisory committee best articulates our goals for this legislation: ''* * * management of the river must strike a balance among desires to protect the river as an ecosystem, maintain the river for legitimate community use, and protect the interests and property rights of those who own its shorelands.''

In conclusion, Mr. President, I want to congratulate the Senate majority leader LOTT, Senator MURKOWSKI, and others in negotiating an agreement on this comprehensive legislation. In addition, I want to especially commend two members of the Lamprey River Advisory Committee—Judith Spang of Durham, NH, and Richard Wellington of Lee, NH—who have worked very hard on the Lamprey River legislation and have traveled to Washington to testify on its behalf. I am very pleased that, at last, the fruits of their labor will be rewarded with the adoption of the omnibus parks bill. I urge the President to sign this important environmental legislation as the 104th Congress adjourns.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the bill be advanced to third reading and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without further action or debate.

The bill (H.R. 4236) was deemed read a third time and passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter from the Chief of Staff of the President, Mr. Leon Panetta, addressed to me as chairman of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and a letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Dan Glickman to Mr. Mark Suwyn, president of the Louisiana-Pacific Corp.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

October 3, 1996.

Hon. FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MURKOWSKI: The Administration is aware of your deep concerns regarding the problems of the Ketchikan Pulp Company (KPC). Given your interest in these matters, we propose that the government begin discussions on these issues immediately. Those discussions must take place in

the context of the Administration's long-standing policies, namely: we will not consider an extension of the KPC's contract until the Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) is complete; we cannot accept conditions reversing any part of the Tongass Timber Reform Act; and, we will accept nothing less than full compliance with all environmental laws.

You have stated the company is considering closing the pulp facility, which we would consider a material breach of the contract. We understand that the company has a different view. Based on our previous discussions we will agree to an immediate mutual cancellation of the contract and give KPC all of the timber and logs released under contract to them. This should equal nearly 300 million board feet of timber. If there is no mutual agreement on contract cancellation, timber sales will be made available on a competitive basis in Southeast Alaska in a sufficient supply to operate the two sawmills for 24 months, and in accordance with applicable law.

The parties would cancel the contract based on their mutual desire to avoid litigation over whether the government is providing sufficient timber and over whether closure of the pulp mill is a breach. The agreement would define the respective litigation rights of the parties regarding contract claims.

We understand the importance of these issues to Southeast Alaska. The Administration is committed to working with the Governor, the Alaska Congressional delegation, and all interested parties to ensure sustainable and diversified opportunities for the workers, families, industries, and communities of Southeast Alaska. We look forward to effective joint coordination of our State and Federal resources through the auspices of the State of Alaska and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

LEON PANETTA,
Chief of Staff.

OCTOBER 3, 1996.

MARK SUWYN,
President: Louisiana-Pacific Corp., Portland, OR.

DEAR MARK: I appreciate your coming to Washington to meet with me, the Governor, and Alaska's congressional delegation and for the proposal you conveyed in your September 19 letter. Let me preface my reply by affirming the long-standing policy of the Administration within which further discussions must take place. We will not consider an extension of Ketchikan Pulp Company's (KPC) contract until the Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) is complete; we cannot accept conditions reversing any part of the Tongass Timber Reform Act; and we will accept nothing less than full compliance with all environmental laws.

You have stated you are considering closing the pulp facility, which we would consider a material breach of the contract. We understand that you have a different view. Based on our conversations, we will agree to an immediate mutual cancellation of the contract and give KPC all of the timber and logs released under the contract to them. This should equal nearly 300 million board feet of timber. If there is no mutual agreement on contract cancellation timber sales will be available in southeast Alaska on a competitive basis in a sufficient supply to operate the two sawmills for twenty-four months and in accordance with applicable law. The parties would cancel the contract based on their mutual desire to avoid litigation over whether closure of the pulp mill by KPC is a breach and over whether the government is providing sufficient timber under the contract. The agreement would define the respective litigation rights of the parties regarding related contract claims.

In view of your proposal to close the pulp facility, I intend to begin immediately to determine steps the Department can take, unilaterally and with the State of Alaska, to mitigate the effects of the closure on the affected workers, their families, ancillary industries, and the communities of southeast Alaska. We understand the importance of these issues to southeast Alaska. We are prepared to begin discussions immediately so that we may resolve these issues, while providing strong and meaningful support for the people and communities of southeast Alaska.

Sincerely,

DAN GLICKMAN,
Secretary.

Mr. DASCHLE. It is my understanding that the statement in the second paragraph of the Panetta letter to Senator MURKOWSKI and the Glickman letter to Mark Suwyn, president of Louisiana-Pacific Corp.—October 3, 1996—regarding the provision of timber to southeast Alaska for 24 months will only apply if, due to a breach of contract, timber is no longer available to KPC under the contract and there is no mutual agreement on contract cancellation.

Mr. LOTT. Yes, that is my understanding also.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Yes, that is my understanding also.

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, Congress today has given its final approval to legislation I have worked to enact for much of my Senate career. It will, for the first time in the history of our Nation, establish a unit of the national park system that is devoted to teaching about and preserving the tallgrass prairie ecosystem.

This legislation is not sweeping, In fact, it allows the Federal Government to acquire by donation only 180 acres of prairie. Certainly, this is nowhere near as vast and expansive as other units in out national park system. It is, however, an important milestone. For about 50 years, Kansans have argued about the need for and size of a tallgrass prairie park. Debate over past legislative proposals, some attempting to establish a park through the use of eminent domain, tore apart Kansas communities. I remember when this was a topic one avoided in conversation for fear of angering a friend or neighbor.

I am pleased that those days are behind us. By bringing an array of interests to the table and initiating face-to-face discussions, the Kansas congressional delegation has over the past 5 years hammered out a proposal to establish a national preserve that pleases nearly everyone. The legislation is unique for the National Park Service in that it provides the Federal Government with a core area that it will own and use to educate the American people about the tallgrass ecosystem and grazing that began with buffalo and is now used to raise some of the finest beef cattle in the world. The bill keeps more than 10,000 acres within the preserve's boundaries in private hands, owned by the conservation organization the National Park Trust. It provides for cooperative agreements to be reached between the private property owner and the Federal Government to give the American public an opportunity to bike across and enjoy vast undeveloped stretches of virgin tallgrass prairie.

When I leave the Senate in a few weeks, I plan to return to my farm about 20 miles from this preserve. The topography of my ranch is much like that of this preserve, and I often find it difficult to explain to my colleagues what this part of the country is like and why I love it. William Least Heat-Moon in his best-selling book about this area titled ''*PrairyErth*'' claims the beauty of this land is contained in its subtlety and vast expanses—sometimes easily overlooked by outsiders who quickly pass.

When the wind blows, as it almost always does in this part of the country, one can look out from the top of the region's gentle rolling hills and watch a sea of grass bending and waving across one's entire line of sight. Ungrazed, this grass can stretch ten feet high. For grazing, one can find no nutritionally richer land in the country. It will add more than 2 pounds a day to steers left to graze on its rich mixture of grasses.

It is not difficult to let the mind wander when standing alone and looking out across the prairie, absorbing its shades of greens in the spring and summer and its browns through the fall and winter. It is not difficult to get a sense of what the Native Americans must have felt hundreds of years ago when they crossed this land hunting for the great buffalo herds. One can also appreciate how the pioneers must have felt when they crossed this same land a century ago, carrying their dreams and possessions in covered wagons. Walt Whitman aptly called this prairie ''our characteristic landscape, the center of our national identity.'' It is appropriate that we Americans set aside at least a portion of it for perpetual use and protection by the American people. This legislation will finally do that.

The passage of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve Act would not have been possible without the countless individuals who have worked over the years to see this idea become a reality. Former Kansas Congressman and current Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman has attempted for more than a decade to create this Federal preserve. It was his persistence and willingness to bring opposing conservation and agriculture interests together to work out their differences that built the foundation from which this current legislation evolved. Similar and steadfast support also came from Senator Bob Dole, Representative JAN MEYERS, and former Representative Jim Slattery. Controversy over a tallgrass prairie park stymied many previous Congresses, and it was through the commitment and unique talents of each of

these members that we were able to make meaningful and lasting progress on this legislation.

I would also like to thank Governor Bill Graves and former Governor Mike Hayden, both of whom publicly lent their support to this effort and helped shape public opinion in Kansas and beyond in favor of creating this preserve.

Representative PAT ROBERTS, in whose district this preserve will be located, deserves special accolades. For the past 4 years, PAT has worked tirelessly to reassure skeptics that this unique approach to create the preserve would work. No one should underestimate how much his word meant to many in the agriculture community. His sponsorship of this bill in the House further added to the credibility necessary to get this bill passed by the House of Representatives.

There are too many Kansans who have worked diligently to see this bill enacted to name each, but a few should be noted. Ron Klataske of the National Audubon Society was the first champion of creating the preserve on land known as the Z-Bar or Spring Hill Ranch. He and members of the Flint Hills National Monument Committee, led by Lee Fowler, Charles Rayl, Ken Harder, and Larry Bayer, were early and consistent supporters of this effort. Five years ago, another group of thoughtful Kansans came together in an effort to find common ground between agriculture and conservation interests and look for ways to privately acquire and preserve the ranch. Led first by Ross Beach and then by Jan Lyons, this commission helped bring thoughtful, reasoned deliberations to this issue, and for that I am indebted.

When the idea of creating a tallgrass preserve faded from the front pages of Kansas newspapers, I could always depend on the editorial writers from almost every Kansas newspaper to lend their support to this legislation. Leading the charge was always the editorial staff of the Wichita Eagle, who time and time again, both in their editorial columns and in their sometimes biting cartoons, remind Kansans why creating a tallgrass prairie preserves is so important to the state.

Efforts to embrace a public/private partnership to create this national tallgrass prairie preserve may have remained nothing but an idea if it had not been for the involvement of the National Park Trust, who in 1994 purchased the property that will become the preserve. They immediately approached the Kansas congressional delegation and said they were ready to work with us to make preservation efforts a success. Paul Pritchard, president of the National Parks and Conservation Association, and NPCA board members Gordon Beaham, Eugene Brown, Dolph Simons Jr., and Bill Watson, all played an important role in this effort. The same is true for Paul Duffendack, a board member for the National Park Trust. I extend a special thanks to Laura Loomis of the National Parks and Conservation Association and Peggy O'Brien Marsh of the National Park Trust for the time they spent assisting me and my staff on this legislation.

Officials at the Department of the Interior spent hours helping my office fine tune this proposal Ed Cohen, deputy solicitor at the Department of the Interior, Denis Galvin, associate director, professional services at the National Park Service, Mike Tiernan, attorney at the National Park Service, and Linda Potter, legislative affairs specialist at the National Park Service, all lent their help, patience, and expertise to this effort. Equally helpful have been the support of Don Castleberry, former regional director of the National Park Service's Midwest Region, David Given, deputy field director of the Midwest Field Area, and Steve Miller, superintendent of the Fort Scott National Historic Site.

In 1990, the Kansas congressional delegation directed the National Park Service to conduct a study on the feasibility of making this area a unit of the national park system. Randall Baynes, superintendent of the Homestead National Monument in Beatrice, NE, was assigned to undertake this task. Randy did this job professionally, but he unfortunately felt the angry wrath of some who opposed creating a preserve. He handled the furor with dignity and grace. Randy died unexpectedly in 1993, and I want his wife, Judy, and his children, Melissa and Keith, to know how much I appreciate the contribution he made to this effort. Creation of this preserve is an appropriate legacy to Randy's love of the prairie and his belief that this preserve should be created.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of several congressional staffers including: Mike Horak of my staff, Brian Sweatland, Heidi Cashman, and Tom Hemmer with Representative PAT ROBERTS; Keith Yehle with Representative JAN MEYERS; Mike Torrey and Keira Franz with Senators Bob Dole and SHEILA FRAHM; and Sherry Ruffing with former Representative Dan Glickman. I would also like to express my gratitude to Jim O'Toole, John Piltzecker, and Julia Gustafson of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for their help in getting this bill through the Senate.

Mr. President, passage of this legislation will be the last piece of legislation to become law during my 18-year career in the Senate. It is an accomplishment that I am quite proud of. Let me assure my colleagues that as private citizen KASSEBAUM, I will work to ensure that this preserve meets your high expectation. I have joked for some time that I plan to spend my retirement volunteering as a docent at this preserve, so I encourage my colleagues to stop by if they ever find themselves driving through the beautiful rolling prairie of east-central Kansas. Come and see one of the Nation's newest units of the national park system. I assure you that it will be well worth your time, and I will be happy to show you around.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that language agreed to by the Kansas delegation for inclusion in a committee report on this bill be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This language, agreed to by the delegation, the owner of the Spring Hill Ranch, its leasee, and reviewed by the National Park Service, is our attempt to give the National Park Service direction on future grazing policy. This legislation will become law without a committee report, and I want the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect the delegation's views.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

The conference agreement includes language to create a tallgrass prairie national preserve in the Flint Hills of Kansas. The preserve will be created through a unique private/public partnership between the federal government and a private conservation group. The partnership is the culmination of decades of discussions between agriculture and conservation interests who, until now, have disagreed over issues such as federal ownership and cattle grazing as part of a tallgrass prairie preserve in Kansas. The language drafted in this legislation is the result of consensus building and compromise between these various groups.

While the conference agreement only provides for federal ownership, by donation, of 180 acres of land on the preserve, it is hoped that the National Park Service, through the cooperative agreement language contained in this bill, will be able to work with the private land owners (and its leasee) of the rest of the 10,894-acre ranch to provide interpretive and recreation opportunities within the boundaries of the preserve, but beyond the federally owned core.

The stated purposes of this bill remain broad to give the National Park Service maximum flexibility in determining land use practices within the preserve through the general management planning process, with input from an advisory committee created by this bill. We believe a public planning process, with input from all Kansans, including local citizens and adjacent landowners, will enable the National Park Service to identify the best use for the 180 federally owned acres and provide guidance for possible cooperative agreements between the federal government and the private owner and its leasee.

The conferees note that the Kansas congressional delegation is united in its belief that a strong emphasis of the preserve should include the management of range lands through historic and contemporary ranching practices. While the conferees are unwilling to include language in the act that would require any predetermined use of private property mentioned within this bill, the conferees agree with the Kansas congressional delegation that current cattle ranching activities, consistent with the ecologically sound and sustainable management of this property, should continue after the preserve is created. Cattle ranching, as practiced under the current grazing lease, is consistent with the interpretation of the history and culture of the Flint Hills region of the tallgrass prairie.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, in the closing minutes of the 104th Congress, I just want to express my deep appreciation for all of those who worked so

hard to pass the parks bill. As everyone knows, that omnibus parks bill contains the Presidio trust legislation which I sponsored in the Senate, and which is so important to my State of California, to the city of San Francisco, and to so many people who care about the preservation of the Presidio of San Francisco.

If I may, I would like to thank the majority leader at this time, and the minority leader. I thank my colleagues and friends relative to the effort that has been put in here.

This is a major environmental bill. It has approximately 136 titles that affect a broad area of America's public lands, and it is very, very important.

I am sorry that Senator BOXER can't be here. Senator FEINSTEIN worked very hard. The merits of the Presidio speak for themselves.

Senator BRADLEY has been a champion representing the interests of the Sterling Forest in both New Jersey and New York, BOB BENNETT, of Utah, and ORRIN HATCH, on Snowbasin.

And I thank my staff, Gregg Renkes, Mark Rey, Gary Ellsworth, Andrew Lundquist, and Alex Polinksy.

And, particularly the majority leader again for accommodating the extraordinary hard work, effort, and time to resolve it.

This is a very meaningful piece of legislation.

I want to congratulate all of you who have been a party to it.

I want to pay tribute to Senator JOHNSTON, my good friend who is departing. And I look forward next year to working with the Senator from Arkansas, Senator BUMPERS, as we pursue our obligations on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, with the presumption of continued chairmanship and his position in the ranking position.

Thank you, Mr. Leader.

Again, let me thank Senator BRADLEY and Senator BOXER.

I, of course, thank the whip.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will be very brief because Senator LOTT and I do have some other business to tend to, and then to call the President at 5 o'clock.

Mr. President, I wanted to take just a moment to congratulate Senator MURKOWSKI for his efforts on the omnibus parks bill just passed. As he has indicated, this has been one of the most difficult and contentious and complicated sets of negotiations I think we have had in the whole 104th Congress. That success we now have is only possible as a result of the extraordinary efforts made by a number of people.

I want to cite, in particular, Senators BRADLEY and BOXER for their remarkable efforts over the last couple of days. They were instrumental in making this happen. Senator BOXER and Senator BRADLEY worked with Senator MURKOWSKI and brought this about through cooperation and a tremendous amount of persistence.

But, as Senator MURKOWSKI has indicated, there are others as well who have been very much a part of this effort. Senator BUMPERS and Senator FEINSTEIN also have been very helpful; Senator NICKLES and a number of Senators on both sides of the aisle have been committed to this bill.

So this is an achievement of some magnitude affecting, as the Senator has indicated, perhaps 136 projects in 41 States. It is long overdue. This has been an effort that has been underway now for a long period of time.

Let me also thank and congratulate the administration for their efforts over the last couple of days. As he tends to do in these moments of crisis, Leon Panetta, in particular, has made this work. He deserves special commendation, along with a number of other members of the administration staff.

So we are very appreciative of the cooperation and the effort made. At long last we have passed a parks bill of great magnitude and great importance. And I appreciate the work done on all sides.

I yield the floor.

EXPANDING THE BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, it seems to me that protecting and preserving our Nation's special places, like the Blackstone Valley, is one of the Federal Government's most important functions. That is why I am so delighted that my bill to reauthorize and expand the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor was included in the omnibus parks bill that was agreed to today.

There are few other areas in the country that have had as rich and diverse a history as the Blackstone Valley. For centuries, the Blackstone River has been the center of life in the valley. The Native Americans who first inhabited these shores enjoyed abundant fishing and hunting along the river. Settlers came in search of farmland and instead found that the river provided a powerful new source of energy. By the late 1700's, bustling towns appeared up and down the river. They were joined by sawmills, and in 1793, Slater's Mill, the river's first textile mill, opened, signalling the birth of the Industrial Revolution.

When the Blackstone Corridor was created in 1986, it represented an entirely new approach for the National Park Service. The corridor is not at all like the typical national park, where the Federal Government owns and manages the land. Its boundaries span two States; it contains whole cities, towns, and villages; half a million people live in the Blackstone Corridor. It truly represents a partnership between the Federal Government and State and local governments and communities in Rhode Island and neighboring Massachusetts.

Under the umbrella of the Corridor Commission, individuals from different communities, levels of government, and walks of life are working together toward a common vision—and with impressive result.

In the early 1970's, the Blackstone River, like so many rivers and lakes throughout our Nation, was in deep trouble. It was apparent that many years of pollution had wiped out much of the river's wildlife. The once polluted river has been cleaned up. A beautiful greenway for bicyclists and hikers is underway. Historic mills have been restored. National Park rangers and volunteers are giving tours and educating visitors about the valley's rich history. The Blackstone Valley area is one of Rhode Island's environmental and historical jewels. With its restoration, this area's strong sense of price and community spirit has been revitalized.

All this is being done with relatively little money from the Federal Government, because every Federal dollar that goes into the corridor is leveraged many times over.

I introduced S. 1374, which established the corridor, on June 27, 1985, and on November 10, 1986, the bill became law. Since then, the Rhode Island congressional delegation, and the Massachusetts delegation, have worked together each year to strengthen the corridor. Today, the corridor stretches 46 miles along the Blackstone River, from Worcester, MA to Providence, RI. The corridor encompasses 20 cities and towns over a 250,000-acre area. Efforts to interpret and preserve the valley's historical and scenic resources are coordinated by the Blackstone Corridor Commission and the National Park Service works closely with the commission, providing invaluable technical assistance and guidance.

Last year, I introduced S. 601 to reauthorize the commission and expand the corridor with Senators PELL, KENNEDY, and KERRY. This bill extends the life of the Blackstone Corridor Commission—which, under current law, would expire in November—for another 10 years. In addition, it adds to the corridor five new communities—three in Rhode Island and two in Massachusetts—which are culturally and historically tied to the existing corridor and contain the headwaters of the Blackstone River. This logical expansion will allow the commission to interpret and protect the region's resources in a comprehensive and unified fashion. Finally, my legislation increases the commission's annual authorization from $350,000 to $650,000, in recognition of its tremendous success and new responsibilities.

The Senate Energy Committee held hearings on my bill, and it was reported out of the Commission on April 7, 1995. It was included in the omnibus parks bill and attached to the Presidio Management bill which, after some setbacks, was unanimously approved by the full Senate.

Since that time, Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives have been engaged in a lengthy and difficult conference, attempting to work out the differences between the proposals. Many highly controversial provisions that would have led both to opposition in the Senate and the possibility

of a veto by the President have been dropped.

I commend Senate MURKOWSKI for his efforts to accommodate the interests of so many colleagues and greatly appreciate his work to restore my version of the Blackstone Reauthorization bill. I know the House fought hard to replace my bill with the House Resources Committee proposal which would have authorized a lesser appropriation and would have extended the life of the commission for 5 years only. This would not have give the commission enough time to complete its work.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

SALUTING THE SERVICE OF JOHN L. DONEY

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 312, submitted earlier today by myself.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 312) saluting the service of John L. Doney.

Whereas, John L. Doney has served the United States Senate since September 1980;

Whereas, Mr. Doney has during his Senate career served in the capacities of staff assistant to Senator Bill Roth, Senate Post Office clerk, Republican Cloakroom assistant, assistant secretary to the minority, culminating in his appointment as assistant secretary to the majority;

Whereas, throughout his Senate career Mr. Doney has been a reliable source of advice to Senators and staff alike;

Whereas, Mr. Doney's more than 16 years of service have been characterized by infinite patience, unfailing good humor, and a deep sense of respect for this institution; therefore be it *Resolved,* That the Senate salutes John L. Doney for his career of public service to the United States Senate and its Members.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any further statements relating to the resolution appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 312) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

THE RETIREMENT OF JEANIE BOWLES, SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 313 that I submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 313) relating to the retirement of Jeanie Bowles, Superintendent of Documents, United States Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I want to congratulate Jeanie Bowles, Superintendent of Documents, upon her retirement and thank her for her 26 years of service to the U.S. Senate.

Jeanie Bowles has been a familiar, friendly face in the Senate, and we have all benefited from our association with her. As the resolution states, she has ''discharged her responsibilities with efficiency, devotion, and grace.'' We will miss her and wish her well upon her retirement.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD at the appropriate place.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 313) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

Whereas the Senate has been advised of the retirement of its Superintendent of Documents, Ms. Jeanie Bowles;

Whereas Jeanie Bowles became an employee of the Senate of the United States on January 3, 1971, and since that date has ably and faithfully upheld the high standards and traditions of the staff of the Senate of the United States for a period that included thirteen Congresses;

Whereas Jeanie Bowles has served with distinction as Assistant Editor in the Office of the Official Reporters, which position she was appointed to February 2, 1981;

Whereas Jeanie Bowles has served with distinction as Superintendent of Documents, which position she has held since June 16, 1986;

Whereas Jeanie Bowles has discharged her responsibilities with efficiency, devotion, and grace, in particular dedicating her Senate service to the advancement of young people:

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the United States commends Jeanie Bowles for her exemplary service to the Senate and the Nation; wishes to express its deep gratitude and appreciation for her long, faithful, and outstanding service; and extends its best wishes upon her retirement.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Jeanie Bowles.

AUTHORITY TO MAKE CERTAIN APPOINTMENTS AFTER SINE DIE ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send to the desk a resolution and ask for its immediate consideration authorizing certain appointments to be made after adjournment sine die.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 314) authorizing the President of the Senate, the President of the Senate pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders, to make certain appointments after the sine die adjournment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 314) was agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, That notwithstanding the sine die adjournment of the present session of the Congress, the President of the Senate, the President of the Senate pro tempore, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the Minority Leader of the Senate be, and they are hereby, authorized to make appointments to commissions, committee, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

NOTIFICATION TO THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING THE PROPOSED ADJOURNMENT OF THE SESSION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send to the desk a resolution and ask for its immediate consideration regarding a committee to notify the President concerning the proposed adjournment of the session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 315) appointing a committee to notify the President concerning the proposed adjournment of the session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 315) was agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, That a committee of two Senators be appointed by the Presiding Officer to join a similar committee of the House of Representatives to notify the President of the United States that the two Houses have completed their business of the session and are ready to adjourn unless he has some further communication to make to them.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the resolution just adopted, the Chair appoints the majority and minority leaders as members of the committee to inform the President of the United States that the two Houses have completed their business of the session and are ready to adjourn unless he has some further communication to make to them.