

tax credit would be available in future years. This uncertainty undermines the entire purpose of the credit.

We believe making the R&D tax credit permanent is essential to helping maintain America's technology lead in the world. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

George Allen, Larry E. Craig, Conrad Burns, Tim Hutchinson, Gordon Smith, Wayne Allard, Jeff Sessions, Orrin Hatch, Michael Crapo, Robert F. Bennett, Sam Brownback, Bill Frist, John Warner.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a news release dated Tuesday, May 8, 2001, entitled "High Tech Task Force Members Urge Finance Committee to Make R&D Tax Credit Permanent," which documents the work of this task force and the importance they place in making permanent the research and development tax credit, be printed in the RECORD.

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

REPUBLICANS WILL KEEP FIGHTING TO MAKE R&D CREDIT PERMANENT—HIGH TECH TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN ALLEN PRAISES SENATOR GORDON SMITH'S LEADERSHIP

WASHINGTON, DC.—Senate Republican High Tech Task Force Chairman Sen. George Allen (VA) today vowed to keep pushing for an amendment to make the Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credit permanent, despite almost universal Democrat opposition to the provision in a Senate vote. He also praised the leadership of Sen. Gordon Smith (OR) in sponsoring the amendment, which was also sponsored by Sen. Orrin Hatch (UT) and Sen. Allen.

Senate Democrats, led by Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (MT), defeated the provision 57-41. Only one Democrat joined 40 Senate Republicans in supporting the Smith-Hatch-Allen amendment. Cosponsors of the amendment were Senators Wayne Allard (CO), Robert Bennett (UT), Sam Brownback (KS), Conrad Burns (MT), Larry Craig (ID), Mike Crapo (ID), John Ensign (NV), and Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX).

"Senator Gordon Smith deserves commendation for his leadership for the idea of a permanent R&D Tax Credit," Chairman Allen said. "Unfortunately, Democrats voted almost universally to pull the plug on one of the top items on the technology community's agenda.

"I pledge the support of the High Tech Task Force in working with Senators Smith and Hatch to find any avenue to make the R&D Tax Credit a permanent part of our tax code.

"A permanent R&D Tax Credit brings certainty and will spur more American investment and more American jobs that can lead to the development of new, more cost-effective, and more efficient technology products and medicines Research and development are also essential for America's long-term, competitive economic growth."

Studies have shown that a permanent R&D tax credit would lead to higher wages for workers and gains in productivity.

The R&D tax credit was originally enacted in 1981 and has been temporarily extended ten times. Permanent extension of the Research and Development Tax Credit is a component of the Task Force's policy agenda, which was announced March 1, 2001.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I do not see anybody seeking recognition, so I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for a period not to exceed 5 minutes.

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

FARM STABILITY

Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, our farmers are hurting, and they are facing an uncertain future. They desperately need the stability this farm bill will offer them.

Because we failed to act in December, many bankers are balking at issuing loans to farmers. The bankers want a guarantee that there will be a new farm bill this season, or, at the very least, a disaster relief package.

And our farmers cannot operate without loans. Their livelihood depends on getting that bank loan each season. So, we've left them in limbo, anxiously awaiting our next move.

That is why we must pass this farm bill as soon as possible.

Remember, the 1996 farm bill didn't pass until April of that year, and it was still able to be implemented for that year's growing season. We will be able to do the same this year if we pass a bill early this spring.

I worked hard on the Agriculture Committee to protect the interests of Georgia and the Southeast. The bill we came up with is good for Georgia. It provides more assistance for peanuts and cotton, and most Georgia agriculture groups had displayed a rare unity in rallying around it.

We must pass this farm bill and get it to the President as quickly as possible. Our farmers and the rural areas they breathe life into cannot afford for us to put it off any longer.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MOUNT UNION FOOTBALL TEAM

• Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Mount Union Purple Raiders football team, from Alliance, OH, on a number of outstanding achievements. The Purple Raiders just recently won the Division III National Championship for the fifth time in six years. Maintaining a perfect record of 13 victories, Mount Union's team has the longest current winning streak of any NCAA football team, and has won 82 of the last 83 games.

While their execution of the split-back offense is flawless, it is Mount

Union's academic performance that is truly remarkable. The college, as a whole, boasts 14 Academic All Ohio Athletic Conference winners and three Academic All-Americans. The football team has graduated a near-perfect percentage of players in the last 16 seasons. I applaud the Purple Raider players who exceed all expectations on the gridiron, as well as in the classroom.

For the local residents of Alliance, OH and the students of Mount Union, there is so much to be proud of. As they crowd into the oldest college football stadium in Ohio every fall, they are not only cheering for the heroes of the Purple Raiders, but also for future heroes, future leaders who will have acquired the valuable experiences that come with a solid education and a demanding athletic routine. These experiences will aid them in making a positive impact years from now.

Again, I congratulate head coach Larry Kehres and his Purple Raiders on a perfect championship season. They are a shining example of true student-athletes, and I wish them the best of luck next fall.●

GAINESVILLE, TX

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today with tremendous pride for the city of Gainesville, Texas. This city deserves special recognition for being the first city to establish The Medal of Honor Host City Program. The purpose of this unique program is to recognize those legendary, humble heroes who, through great personal sacrifice, have preserved our freedoms. At the same time this program will pay tribute to the principles that the medal represents—Duty, Honor, and Country. To this end, it will provide Medal of Honor recipients a stipend to cover lodging, food, and fuel expenses while visiting the city of Gainesville.

The local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 1922, along with the leaders of the community, pioneered the project and have seen it through from idea to implementation. While designed to honor living recipients of the nation's highest decoration for military valor, it also was initiated with the intent of exposing the citizens of Gainesville to these role models of selfless service. When visiting the city, these men of uncommon valor will be invited to share their experiences with students, clubs, and local organizations. By providing youth the opportunity to hear, first-hand, these amazing tales of gallantry and the effect that these circumstances have had on the remainder of their lives, the principles of patriotism and duty will be propagated throughout the current generation and beyond. It also gives civic groups and classes an opportunity to thank them for everything that they have done for our country.

This project has not only been formalized, but has already been put into action. The first two Medal of Honor recipients visited the city this past