

Dakota and other rural States of the benefits of ethanol to the environment and the economies of rural communities. Farmer-owned ethanol plants in South Dakota, and in neighboring States, demonstrate the hard work and commitment being expended to serve a growing market for clean domestic fuels.

In South Dakota, six ethanol plants are operating to produce approximately 116 million gallons per year. Four other ethanol projects are under construction, with a combined capacity to produce an additional 139 million gallons of ethanol annually.

Increasingly, modern ethanol plants in South Dakota are equipped to produce 40 million gallons of ethanol per year, such as the plants operating in Wentworth, Watertown, and near Milbank, as well as the proposed sites under construction in Chancellor and Groton. The economic benefits of one, 40 million gallon ethanol plant are significant, including an increase of household income for the community by \$20 million annually.

The bill has other important provisions, including an orderly phase-down of MTBE use and removal of the oxygen content requirement for reformulated gasoline, RFG. The new standard has strong bipartisan support and is the result of long and comprehensive negotiations between farm groups, the oil industry and environmentalists. It is the first time that a substantive agreement has been reached on this issue.

Including the Senate-passed renewable fuels standard in the conference will go a long way towards increasing the Nation's domestic energy supply and making it more secure in the future. However, after no renewable fuels provision was included in the House energy bill, House Republican conferees, have chosen to introduce an unworkable alternative at the eleventh hour that has received no debate and has no consensus.

This is not acceptable. The conference should adopt the Senate-passed standard immediately. After a long debate, a consensus has been reached on this issue, demonstrating bipartisan support for a broader, deeper and more diverse energy portfolio, one that ensures we have clean, reliable and affordable domestic sources of energy. Let's move forward and enact the Senate language into law.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### HOME SAFETY MISHAPS COST AMERICANS DEARLY

• Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, this morning on the National Mall a report entitled "State of Home Safety in America" was unveiled by David Oliver, Executive Director of the Home Safety Council. The study, conducted by Dr. Carol Runyan of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and recognized by Dr. Sue Binder of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, paints a picture of far too many

Americans being hurt by unintentional injuries and deaths in this nation.

For instance, the study found that: Unintentional injuries are the fifth leading cause of death in the United States. Unintentional injuries in the home result in nearly 20,000 deaths and 13 million medical visits. Unintentional home injuries cost nearly \$380 billion each year and account for an estimated 10 percent of all visits to emergency rooms.

The Home Safety Council, a not-for-profit organization devoted to home safety, has already been working to educate Americans on the risks they face every day in their own homes. The Great Safety Adventure is a traveling hands-on educational experience that teaches basic life skills to help children, families and communities.

Americans need to know the risks that exist in their homes and what they can do to prevent home injuries. This study will be an important resource for all Americans and will be a benchmark for examining future trends in home injury prevention.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this monumental effort to educate and save American lives by informing our constituents of the risks present in their homes and the steps they can take to prevent unintentional home injuries and keep families safe. More details are available through the Home Safety Council's Web site, [www.homesafetycouncil.org](http://www.homesafetycouncil.org).

For commissioning this important study and for raising the issue of home safety in the Congress, I congratulate the Home Safety Council and its distinguished board of directors.●

##### TRIBUTE TO THE GRADUATES OF THE BOSTON DIGITAL BRIDGE FOUNDATION TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome this opportunity to pay tribute to the impressive achievements of those who have graduated this year as part of the Boston Digital Bridge Foundation's Technology Goes Home and TechBoston programs.

This evening at Franklin Park in Dorchester, MA, the City and the Boston Digital Bridge Foundation are hosting "Evening on the Bridge 2.0," a celebration honoring the graduates of these two programs.

Working with businesses, universities, schools, government, families and community-based organizations, the Boston Digital Bridge Foundation organizes and facilitates partnerships to link Boston public school students and their parents to the Internet. These programs have helped over 5,000 Boston Public School students and their families.

Technology Goes Home is a ten-week technology training program for low-income families. It has a rigorous selection process and a community service requirement at the completion of the program. Upon graduating from the program, each family receives a new computer, printer and Internet access.

TechBoston provides advanced technology courses for Boston Public School students at the middle and high-school level. They teach high-tech skills essential for success in careers and post-secondary education. Currently, over 2,500 Public School Students are enrolled in these classes.

Technology skills are no longer a luxury for students, they are a necessity. Without knowledge of computers and the Internet, today's students will have great difficulty competing in tomorrow's economy. When used effectively in the classroom and at home, modern technology can help level the playing field and open extraordinary new horizons and opportunities for all students and their parents.

That's why we are so strongly committed to the Boston Digital Bridge Foundation. The City is at the cutting edge of education technology and has become a national model, thanks to the leadership of Mayor Thomas M. Menino and the skillful work of the community partners involved in these two innovative programs. Over 4,000 participants in six Boston neighborhoods, every high school, and ten middle schools are enrolled in the programs.

We are all proud of the remarkable progress that Boston has made in helping to close the digital divide. A coalition of leaders in business, labor, education and government has worked successfully together to connect all of Boston public schools to the Internet, and is in the process of bringing this technology home to all Boston Public School families.

Dozens of large and small organizations have made donations to these programs. America Online, AT&T Broadband, the Barr Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, FleetBoston Financial, Hewlett-Packard, HiQ Computers, Intel, Keane Inc., Lexmark, Microsoft, PARTNERS+simons, Sallie Mae Foundation, 3Com, Verizon and Xintrix and others have done more than their share, donating products and services to schools, including wiring, network equipment, computers and other supplies. All the equipment donated by these firms is new, and Verizon and America Online have donated free Internet access. This kind of participation has become a model for the nation.

Thanks to the Boston Digital Bridge Foundation and its supporters, we can now guarantee that Boston Public School students and their families have access to the Internet and the opportunities that it creates. We are doing all we can to see that every student in every Boston neighborhood will soon have the same opportunity.

I commend these Boston families and students for their efforts and accomplishments in expanding employment opportunities, improving school grades,