

strapped businesses to attract and retain employees who want to share in the fruits of a growing company. The Woman's High Tech Coalition wrote to me last year:

The education process on stock options needs to be complete in its understanding of what this opportunity has meant to so many women, in particular, in terms of their ability to lift themselves and their children out of a cycle that can affect several generations.

Unfortunately, the process at the FASB is not designed to consider the broader economic benefits of stock-option programs in its rule-making process. In failing to consider these benefits, the FASB's actions may end up doing more harm than good. And before we allow unaccountable officials to create new rules that effectively eliminate stock option programs, I strongly believe that we should be fully informed about the broader impact on workers and productivity. A recently published book, "In the Company of Owners: The Truth About Stock Options (And Why Every Employee Should Have Them)" includes extensive research showing that broad-based stock option plans, over the past 20 years, enhanced productivity, spurred capital formation, and enhanced shareholder value. We should carefully review the implications of any new policy on stock options programs before implementing them and hoping for positive results.

As a result of FASB's decision and the refusal to consider alternatives to expensing, I am joining Senator ENSIGN in introducing legislation that calls for the Securities and Exchange Commission to undertake a thorough review of stock option programs and an assessment of the value of greater disclosure as an alternative to expensing. The bill sets a 3-year framework for evaluating this alternative to expensing during which the SEC could not enforce any new accounting standard on options that the FASB establishes.

If the SEC's studies indicate that greater disclosure is not getting enough information to investors, then we can revisit the issue. But we should not let unelected, unaccountable FASB officials dictate policy through a rushed accounting standard. We must exercise our oversight function and carefully weigh alternatives that would be better for workers, investors, and the economy as a whole.

#### TAIWAN SUPPORT

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the importance of U.S. relations with Taiwan.

Most Americans have been focused on the two media showpiece events in recent weeks—the conflict in Iraq and the SARS pandemic. I would note to the Senate that our relations with Taiwan—a key strategic ally for the United States and a critical regional trading partner—should not be overlooked.

In addition to its strategic role with the U.S., Taiwan has a strong market-based economy and burgeoning multiparty democratic system. It has helped lead the modernization of Southeast Asia by demonstrating the importance of respecting civil liberties and the rule of law.

A component of U.S. efforts to ensure regional stability is to maintain strong relations with Taiwan, including assurances to protect the island against military attacks. To support this effort, the U.S. has a tradition of providing military assistance to Taiwan for the purpose of its self-defense. In recent years, this assistance has primarily been in the form of sales of aircraft and advanced warning radars to the Taiwanese government. Most recently, the Bush administration announced it would sell Taiwan a new assortment of defense articles, including diesel submarines, P-3C anti-submarine aircraft, and *Kidd*-class destroyers. I support this decision because it recognizes the legitimate self-defense requirements of Taiwan, but does not destabilize the sensitive relations between Taipei and Beijing.

The Key to ensuring peace and stability in the region is to promote healthy U.S. relations with Taiwan and support efforts to encourage the People's Republic of China and Taiwan to resolve their differences peacefully. We should continue to pursue a means of supporting Taiwan without harming U.S. interests in China.

#### IN MEMORY OF HENRY BERMAN

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a very dear friend and colleague of mine, Henry Berman, who died on Tuesday, April 27. He was just 92 years old.

He was a true Renaissance man—a man who loved life and loved people. Indeed, there was not a sweeter, gentler, or more generous person on earth than Henry Berman.

Born in 1910, in New Haven, CT, Henry made his way to San Francisco in the early 1930s. During the Great Depression he worked as laborer, then sold butter and eggs, until he settled down as a consultant for Joseph Seagrams & Sons, where he worked for 56 years.

Long active in San Francisco politics and a dedicated philanthropist, I was lucky enough to have Henry serve as the Chairman of the Fire Commission during my tenure as mayor.

I was also fortunate enough to have him serve as my campaign treasurer, in 1992, when I first ran for the United States Senate. I never had a more loyal supporter.

He served the city of San Francisco up until the very end of his life, when he was the president of the airport commission. According to his son Ron, Henry was on the phone with airport leaders even during the last days of his illness.

That's classic Henry for you: if he could walk, sure enough he would be there. He was truly one of a kind.

He was also involved in a wide range of civic and charitable work, including the Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'rith, the American Jewish Committee, Meals on Wheels and "Mo's Kitchen," which provides daily meals at Glide Memorial Methodist Church in San Francisco.

Henry was also an overseer of UC-San Francisco, a trustee of the McLaren School of Business at the University of San Francisco, and a board member of USF's Fromm Institute of Lifelong Learning.

When someone lives as long as Henry did—92 long, prosperous, and productive years you can't conceive of the world without them.

My heartfelt condolences go out to his wonderful wife Sally, to his sons Ron and Bob, and to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I will miss him greatly, but consider myself so very privileged to have known Henry Berman to be able to call him my loyal colleague and my dear, dear friend.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RALPH KRISKA PERDUE

• Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I honor a pillar of the Fairbanks business community and a respected Athabaskan Elder, Ralph Kriska Perdue, who passed on early Tuesday morning at the age of 73. I doubt that most folks in Interior Alaska knew his real age. You see, for years Ralph's wife, Dorothy, conducted a 39th birthday sale, every Christmas, at the family store, Perdue's Jewelers.

Ralph was born on December 16, 1929 in the village of Koyukuk on the Yukon River. He became interested in making jewelry around 1946 and in 1961 opened a jewelry store in downtown Fairbanks. Ralph was a determined individual. He once told a reporter for the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, "To me, there is satisfaction that something is done the way it should be done, whether it's a piece of jewelry or anything that confronts me." The Fairbanks economy has experienced booms and busts, but Perdue's Jewelers has grown and prospered.

Ralph will be remembered in Interior Alaska for many things. A bridge between the Native community and the broader community, he served for 6 years as president of the Tanana Chiefs Conference and as a member of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School Board.

He will be dearly remembered as the father of the Fairbanks Native Association, which he helped found in 1963. Today, the Fairbanks Native Association has an annual operating budget of about \$13 million and a workforce of