

upon such research by linking global warming gases to increased incidence of allergies and asthma in the inner city. The report states that rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide, due mainly to fossil fuel combustion, not only trap more heat, but they promote greater pollen and mold growth and associated asthma.

On World Asthma Day, the air may not be clear, but the message is: We must immediately and dramatically reduce smog- and ozone-forming pollution and global warming gases in order to protect public health. The President's Clear Skies initiative won't do the job, neither will the EPA's new administrative rules that just postpone real pollution reduction for a decade or more.

I urge the administration and the Congress to put aside partisan differences and polluters' special interests to protect the precious lives of those we represent. To live is to breathe. Until all Americans can breathe freely, our work is not yet done.

MOTORSPORTS FACILITIES FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 1524, the Motorsports Facilities Fairness Act.

S. 1524 would clarify the tax treatment of motorsports facilities, codifying the 7-year depreciation classification that track owners have used, in good faith, for many years. This classification went without question in numerous audits and reviews until very recently. Now the IRS wants to implement a new interpretation of the law that would result in a retroactive tax increase for motorsports facility owners.

This new interpretation would penalize the owners of motorsports entertainment facilities who have invested hundreds of millions of dollars in these properties in order to meet the demands of sanctioning bodies and racing fans. Technological changes and enhanced safety requirements can render even recent track repair and reconstruction obsolete. Tracks must also compete to host premier racing events, in part by drawing as many fans as possible. This is why facilities must constantly renovate, rebuild, upgrade and expand.

Darlington Raceway in South Carolina typifies this reinvestment ethic. The track that is "too touch to tame," is undergoing substantial upgrades. Earlier this year, Darlington installed "SAFER" (Steel And Foam Energy Reduction) barriers. The track is currently installing lighting for night racing, which will be completed before the next running of the NASCAR Southern 500 in November.

S. 1524 would not only cover large facilities such as Darlington. The legislation would also clarify the tax law for hundreds of tracks around the country,

including approximately 30 other facilities in South Carolina alone.

The government should not punish these track owners for making capital investments in their facilities. These investments provide substantial economic benefits for the communities where these facilities are located.

Congress should promptly enact S. 1524 to provide certainty and clarity to the Tax Code and to encourage motorsports facility owners to continue to make economically beneficial investments.

CELEBRATING GOVERNMENT WORKERS NATIONWIDE

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the hundreds of thousands of civilian and military employees who have chosen to dedicate their lives to public service. This week, from May 3 through May 9, we celebrate Public Service Recognition Week. Organized by the Public Employees Roundtable since 1985, this week allows us to honor those who have chosen to serve their country and to educate the public about the broad variety of services government provides.

President Kennedy once said: "Let the public service be a proud and lively career. And let every man and woman who works in any area of our Nation's government, in any branch, at any level, be able to say with pride and honor in future years: 'I served the United States Government in that hour of our Nation's need.'" Our Nation is most certainly in a time of need. Great uncertainty exists about the state of world relations, the direction our Nation is headed, and the economic welfare of our society. Unfortunately, the pride and honor associated with public service has been diminished by a lack of respect. Rather than commending the important work Federal civilian employees do side-by-side with our military employees, society too often seeks to belittle their contributions; choosing instead to characterize the civil service as a large, inflexible bureaucracy.

At the Federal level, we are experiencing a disturbing trend. The ranks of bright, active, and well-trained Federal employees are slowly diminishing. Of our 1.8 million Federal civil servants, 50 percent will be eligible to retire over the next five years. At the same time, a national poll by the Partnership for Public Service found that only one in four college-educated Americans expressed significant interest in working for the Federal Government. A recent survey by the Council for Excellence in Government said that young people, while eager to find a job that will allow them to help people, are less likely to choose government jobs than work in the non-profit sector.

In my view, however, if our young people understood the expertise, the sacrifice, and the dedication required to serve the public, they would be less inclined to belittle this calling and

more inclined to answer it. Young people should know, for instance, that civilian employees from agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Capitol Police and the FBI worked side by side with the Coast Guard and the Marine Corps Chemical Biological Incident Response Force from Indian Head, MD to respond to the discovery of ricin in the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Without the civilian Federal researchers at the Human Genome Project, we would know much less about the make-up of the human body and, more importantly, be much further away from providing cures to genetic disorders such as cystic fibrosis and sickle cell anemia. Their work—a complete description of the draft of the DNA sequence of the human genome—was completed faster than originally planned.

Without the hard work done by the civilian employees at the National Security Agency, we would likely be without a few things that today we consider basic necessities, such as computers and cassette tapes. Further, the development of more advanced theories and technologies such as quantum mathematics, nanotechnology, biometrics, and semiconductors—which are quickly changing our world's technological landscape—would have been hindered or never started but for the efforts of NSA's dedicated and innovative employees.

The employees at the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Building and Fire Research Laboratory are about as inconspicuous a group of researchers as exist. But without them there would be no standard coupling for fire hoses or hydrants. If you do not know why that's important, consider the devastating fire that destroyed 2,500 buildings in an 80-block area in the heart of Baltimore in 1904. Responders came from fire departments in D.C., New York, and Philadelphia to help put out the blaze. But each department's hoses had different threads, so they could not be linked to Baltimore's hydrants, making them almost useless. After the fire, the Building and Fire Research Laboratory's predecessor, the National Bureau of Standards, worked with the National Fire Prevention Association to develop national standards and codes for fire equipment, which departments still use today.

Finally, thanks to scientists at the National Cancer Institute, NCI, and the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, women's chances of detecting ovarian cancer earlier and possibly recovering have increased. Working together, NCI and FDA discovered that patterns of proteins found in patients' serum may reflect the presence of ovarian cancer, even at early stages. Currently, more than 80 percent of ovarian cancer patients are diagnosed at a late clinical stage and have a 20 percent or less chance of survival. This research may increase those chances.