

As part of this special project, the General Federation of Women's Clubs forged a historic collaboration with the Family Violence Prevention Fund, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the National Network to End Domestic Violence and domestic violence organizations in communities throughout the United States. Innovative partnerships between the public and private sector, new relationships between organizations—these are the pathways to solutions to our Nation's most pressing problems.

I have spent almost 34 years of my life in Congress and witnessed the transformative impact of powerful Federal legislation. For instance, the Violence Against Women Act improved Federal and State criminal laws and enacted programs that encourage prosecution of abusers, create battered women's shelters and sponsor educational campaigns. Over the past decade, the act's programs have distributed over \$4 billion to States, local governments, and nonprofit organizations. Yet despite this extraordinary success, I am convinced that Federal Government action alone cannot end domestic violence. We desperately need the individual attention and dedication of volunteers. Change happens one woman at a time and one volunteer at a time. The volunteer work done by club members fills an invaluable role. As my mother would say, these are the people who do God's work.

I commend Madam President Pierce for her leadership and commitment to airing our Nation's "dirty little secret," domestic violence. She has brought a whole new legion of women warriors to help battered women and their children. On behalf of the entire Senate, I thank them for their tireless volunteerism to end domestic violence and giving women what they haven't had before—hope.

HOLD EXPLANATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I have placed a hold on the nomination of Roger A. Martella, Jr., to be general counsel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Consistent with my policy of publicly announcing whenever I place a hold on a nomination, I want to notify my colleagues of my objection to allowing Mr. Martella's nomination to be considered under a unanimous consent agreement and to take a few minutes to explain to my colleagues why I am doing so.

After many years of delay, the EPA has finally proposed regulations under the Clean Air Act to protect Americans from toxic air pollutants from cars and trucks and other mobile sources. But instead of proposing a rule that would protect all Americans from these toxic emissions, EPA's proposal would essentially turn the Pacific Northwest into an environmental sacrifice zone.

EPA's analysis shows that the biggest risk from these pollutants comes from benzene which is naturally found

in petroleum products and ends up in the gas tanks of our cars and in the gas cans in our garages. Some of the highest levels of benzene in gasoline are found in the Northwest. In fact, our region of the country has the highest average levels of benzene in gasoline in the United States, more than three times higher than gasoline here on the east coast.

Benzene is a known carcinogen. Exposure to benzene has been shown to cause leukemia and poses other health risks, such as genetic changes. Although the EPA has never set a health standard for benzene in the environment, the Department of Environmental Quality for the State of Oregon has, and we have levels of benzene in Downtown Portland that are 20 times higher than the State's standard. The majority of this benzene comes from gasoline. So it should be good news that EPA is finally acting to regulate the amount of benzene in gasoline.

Unfortunately, EPA has proposed a regulatory scheme that will simply not ensure that these levels are reduced as much as they need to be, and let me explain why.

First, EPA rejected the idea that there should be a maximum level of benzene in gasoline. The current Federal requirements for reformulated gasoline contain a maximum threshold for benzene. The State of California's fuel standards include a provision limiting the percentage of benzene in gasoline sold in California. Canada has a benzene limit. Korea has a benzene limit. Japan has a benzene limit. The European Union has a benzene limit. And according to a recent article in the industry trade press, Vietnam is going to establish a benzene limit. But not EPA.

Instead, what EPA has proposed is the establishment of a national average for benzene in gasoline. Every refinery or gasoline importer is theoretically supposed to sell gasoline that meets this average standard, but there is no maximum level and EPA has coupled this requirement to a credit-trading system. Under EPA's scheme, refineries that make gasoline below the standard will get credits that they can give away, trade, or sell to refineries which make gasoline above the standard. Many refineries that make gasoline with high benzene levels would never have to meet the EPA standard. And again, because under the EPA proposal there would be no maximum level of benzene in gasoline, many refineries are expected to make little, if any, reduction in the amount of benzene in their gasoline and rely instead on credits to meet the standard. According to EPA, five refineries producing gasoline over the EPA standard would take no action whatsoever to reduce their benzene levels.

The reason this is all so important is that Americans don't get their gasoline from a gasoline terminal filled with "average" gasoline. They get their gas from regional refineries and distribu-

tors. In Oregon, we get almost all of our gasoline from refineries on Puget Sound in the State of Washington—refineries which, for the most part, produce gasoline with high benzene levels. Even if everything worked as EPA intended, benzene levels in gasoline in the Northwest would be 40 percent above the national standard. However, the plain fact is that there is no assurance that gasoline in our region will be cleaner because EPA leaves the decision of whether the refineries in Puget Sound reduce their benzene levels up to the companies that own those refineries. If oil companies decide that it is in their economic interest to simply buy their way to compliance by using credits instead of investing in equipment that will actually reduce the amount of benzene in our gas, EPA says they can. The only thing that EPA will care about is that those companies have begged, borrowed, or bought enough credits to meet the national average. And we will continue to have the same high levels of benzene we have now. In fact, without any sort of overall cap on the amount of benzene that can be in gasoline, benzene levels in our gasoline in the Northwest could even go up.

I have focused my remarks on the impact that this proposal has on the Northwest, but it is not just a problem for the Northwest. Other parts of the country will also have gasoline with benzene levels over the national standard, and without any maximum level of benzene no American can be sure of how much benzene might be in their gasoline and in the air they breathe.

I also want to emphasize again that under the EPA approach, it will be the oil companies that decide whether they reduce their benzene levels at any given refinery, not EPA. If EPA's analysis is correct, a single major oil company, which EPA identifies only as "Company No. 2," would be responsible for producing more than a third of all of the gasoline exceeding the proposed national benzene standard. Rather than make the investment in benzene control and removal technology, EPA, from the beginning, simply expects this company to use credits to meet the standard for all of this high benzene gasoline. Who is Company No. 2 and why is EPA proposing to give them this license to pollute?

This would all be bad enough if EPA hadn't actually thought about these problems. They acknowledged in their rulemaking process that there would be regional inequities. They examined alternatives for setting maximum levels of benzene that should be in gasoline. In one case, they looked at the additional cost to Americans of imposing an average maximum level of benzene of 1.3 percent as part of the standard in order to address these problems. EPA's own analysis concluded that this would cost consumers in my region of the country less than one-half of 1 cent a gallon and Americans, nationwide, an additional 5/1000ths of a cent per gallon

of gasoline. That is not five cents. That is .005 cents. The bottom line is that EPA is proposing to allow my constituents to breathe more toxic emissions and face greater risk of cancer so that oil companies can save a fraction of a cent per gallon of gas.

I am not going to sit back and let EPA just go ahead with this rule-making without complaint. The Office of General Counsel is the chief legal advisor to EPA. Mr. Martella was the principal deputy general counsel when this rule was proposed. He is now the acting general counsel. I am placing a hold on his nomination to send as strong a signal to EPA as I can at this time that they need to take another look at their own figures. They need to take another look at their own regulatory analysis. The regional problems that they identified would occur in setting up a national cap-and-trade program are real problems and must not be ignored. They need to come up with a real solution. Until they do, I will object to any unanimous consent agreement to allow Mr. Martella's nomination to come to a vote in the Senate.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN HONOR OF SHERIFF CHARLES PLUMMER

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize Alameda County Sheriff Charles Plummer, who is retiring after more than 54 years of dedicated service in law enforcement.

Sheriff Plummer began his career in law enforcement in 1952 with the city of Berkeley Police Department. His dedication to the Berkeley Police Department was evident over the 23 years he spent with that agency, where he ultimately rose to the rank of acting chief of police.

Following his service with the Berkeley Police Department, Sheriff Plummer was appointed chief of police for the city of Hayward in June of 1976. During his 10 years with the Hayward Police Department, Sheriff Plummer employed many innovative and successful programs. In 1979, Sheriff Plummer volunteered the Hayward Police Department to be one of five trial sites to test the law enforcement service standards established by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, CALEA, becoming the ninth law enforcement agency in the Nation, and the first west of the Mississippi, to be accredited by CALEA. Sheriff Plummer was later elected to CALEA, served as its president, and has since been a strong advocate for the accreditation of law enforcement agencies.

Most memorably, in his role as Hayward chief of police, Sheriff Plummer initiated what became known as "The Cardinal Sins," a set of simple, straightforward rules demanding honesty from all employees and prohibiting bigotry, the acceptance of bribes,

and the use of controlled substances. Many officers felt that adherence to these rules helped build a bond of trust between law enforcement and the communities they served. Today, "The Cardinal Sins" have become standard in many law enforcement agencies throughout the Nation. Under his leadership, the Hayward Police Department became one of the most highly respected law enforcement agencies in the country.

In 1986, Sheriff Plummer was elected sheriff of Alameda County. In his capacity as sheriff, he opened the new Santa Rita jail, the sixth largest facility of its kind in the United States; he established a marine patrol unit to protect the shoreline of Alameda County; he opened a state-of-the-art Office of Emergency Services Center; he has achieved CALEA accreditation for the sheriff's office; and has also received accreditation for many branches of the sheriff's office, including Prison Health Services, the County Crime Laboratory, and the Explosive Ordinance Unit. Under his leadership, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office is the only agency in California to earn the National Sheriff's Association prestigious "Triple Crown Award."

In addition to his regular duties as Alameda county sheriff, Sheriff Plummer has served as head of Region II in the California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid System, a statewide program under the Office of Emergency Services that restores order during emergencies, including civil unrest, and provides assistance to local agencies during other unusual events. Throughout his career, Sheriff Plummer has also been active in numerous professional organizations including the Peace Officer's Research Association of California, the Peace Officer Standards and Training, the Police Executive Research Forum, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

In his spare time, Sheriff Plummer has been very involved in his community, serving as past president and a member of the Hayward Rotary Club. He is a lifetime volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America, serving on the executive council in San Francisco, and a lifetime member of the Southern Alameda County Chapter of the NAACP. Sheriff Plummer has generously given his time to such organizations as the YMCA and the Salvation Army.

For over half a century, Sheriff Plummer has dedicated his life to promoting excellence in law enforcement and the communities he has served. He has served with honesty, integrity, and a commitment to excellence. I am confident that, even in retirement, Sheriff Plummer will continue to touch lives with his good will and compassion. I wish him the very best and hope he enjoys his much deserved retirement.●

DELANO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, DELANO, MINNESOTA

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Delano Elementary School, in

Delano, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Delano Elementary School is truly a model of educational success. The school takes great pride in involving parents in their children's school experiences. Last spring, the rate of parents' participation at parent-teacher conferences was an impressive 99 percent. Parents contributed over 6,000 hours of volunteer services during the 2005-2006 school year.

The Partners in Education organization at Delano Elementary raises over \$30,000 per year for student activities and supplies for teachers and classrooms. Recently, the organization contributed \$8,000 toward the purchase of SMARTBOARD technology, an interactive, electronic blackboard system. The money was also used to install sound-field systems in a number of the primary grade classrooms.

Delano Elementary also offers several programs to challenge children of high potential. The school's Tiger's Tale publishing center allows children to turn their own creative stories into books that have a professionally published look. The math lab extends and enriches skills taught through classroom instruction.

An organized gifted and talented program, with a teacher of gifted and talented children, offers several opportunities for pupils beyond their classrooms, including Destination Imagination, Continental Math League, and other unique units of instruction, designed specifically for high-potential pupils.

Delano Elementary consistently receives five-star ratings from the Department of Education in both reading and math. Last year, 87 percent of Delano third-graders scored in the top three levels on the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment Reading Test, and 93 percent of the third-graders scored in the top three levels in math.

Much of the credit for Delano Elementary School's success belongs to its principal, Darren Schuler, and the dedicated teachers. The pupils and staff at Delano Elementary School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where children can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and pupils at Delano Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Delano Elementary School in Delano for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

ORONO INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL, ORONO, MINNESOTA

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Orono Intermediate School, in Orono, MN, which recently earned an