

Every effort was made to involve county commissioners, members of the public, and a diverse array of participants. Idaho leaders and agency representatives have done an excellent job of including everyone who wished to provide input.

In this case, we have had decades of uncertainty. This petition, as set forth by Governor Risch, has potential to resolve these disputed and difficult issues in a collaborative manner.

The petition is the result of thoughtful hard work intended to reach consensus on a very tough issue. Such decisions seldom provide any one group or individual with everything they had hoped or negotiated to achieve. In this case, it appears to be a fair petition and sets a path forward that will encourage all parties, including those who are in support and in opposition, to resolve their differences and establish Idaho's future road management policy. This is a beginning, not an end.

I commend Governor Risch and his team for their efforts and render my support in behalf of their earnest and diligent effort.

ESTHER MARTINEZ NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of H.R. 4766, the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006, which was passed by the House of Representatives on September 27, 2006, and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. This legislation reauthorizes the Native American Programs Act of 1974 through the year 2012 and provides a grant program to ensure the survival and vitality of Native-American languages through such programs as language nests, survival schools, and language restoration programs, in addition to programs currently funded by the ANA grants for language preservation. I am asking the Senate to pass the bill as passed by the House of Representatives. However, I understand that Dr. COBURN has a question about the intent of this bill in respect to a particular matter and would like to engage in a colloquy for the purpose of clarifying that intent.

Mr. COBURN. I rise for the purpose of engaging Senator MCCAIN, who is managing H.R. 4766, in a colloquy over a certain aspect of the bill. Senator MCCAIN, as the chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, to which this bill has been referred, and as the bill's manager in the Senate, I would like to know if it is the intent of this legislation that the Administration for native Americans, in administering the provisions of this bill, require that grants for Native language survival schools require parental permission for the student to participate in the program and also that the students participating in the program demonstrate adequate progress in English proficiency according to grade level?

Mr. MCCAIN. The Senator from Oklahoma is correct. That is the intent of the bill.

ENDING THE TRADE IN CONFLICT DIAMONDS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, this week marks the opening of a film that has already gotten a lot of attention, Warner Brothers' "Blood Diamond." Many will flock to theaters to see this Hollywood blockbuster, but I hope these audiences will remember more than the celebrities and action sequences.

So-called blood diamonds finance criminal activity that threatens the lives and environments of civilians, the stability of communities and countries, and national, regional, and international security. Innocent citizens, many of them children, are forced to mine the gems in hazardous conditions while rebel groups reap large profits, which are used to pay for weapons that breed brutal violence. In the past decade, the sale of blood diamonds fuelled civil wars resulting in over 4 million deaths and the displacement of millions of people in Angola, Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and now in Ivory Coast.

In 2003, Congress passed the Clean Diamond Trade Act, which sought to ensure that the United States does not participate in the conflict diamond trade by prohibiting the importation of diamonds from countries that fail to implement a clearly articulated system of controls on rough diamonds. It was designed to implement the multinational Kimberley Process scheme launched earlier that year by 70 governments and the global diamond industry, which requires governments to certify that diamond shipments through their countries are conflict-free. The scheme's objectives are to: (1) stem the flow of rough diamonds used by rebels to finance armed conflict; and (2) protect the legitimate diamond industry, upon which several African countries depend for their economic and social development.

A 3-year review of Kimberley Process implementation held earlier this month in Botswana revealed that while important progress has been made, serious loopholes remain and must be closed to stop diamonds from funding conflict in Africa and elsewhere. This meeting comes on the heels of a U.N. report which found that \$23 million in conflict diamonds from Ivory Coast are being sold around the world, and that diamonds continue to cause instability and brutal human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

As the largest consumer of diamonds in the world and a strong advocate for transparency and human rights, the U.S. should be setting an example by ensuring that its domestic certification system is effective and by working to strengthen the Kimberley Process. Just 2 months ago, however, the U.S. Government Accountability Office re-

leased an in-depth study that revealed blood diamonds may be entering the United States due to poor enforcement of the Clean Diamond Trade Act and a failure by the U.S. diamond industry to abide by its promise to police itself in support of the Kimberley Process.

The 2003 Clean Diamond Act commissioned this GAO study to identify areas for improvement in domestic and international implementation of the Kimberley Process scheme, so it is now Congress's responsibility to ensure that the responsible government agencies and departments act upon the report's recommendations.

The GAO reports that the U.S. does not inspect rough diamond imports or exports and so must rely on importers to confirm the legality of their wares. Official statistics show an excess of diamond exports over imports of 300,000 carats last year that cannot be accounted for, suggesting that some diamonds are entering the U.S. through informal channels. Clearly, existing U.S. controls are not strong enough and are insufficiently enforced. Similarly, the GAO study finds that implementation of the Kimberley Process scheme in Africa is severely constrained by the limited capacity and resources of these countries and the need to harmonize diamond trade and certification policies among these and other countries in the region.

Both to discourage the mining and sale of blood diamonds and to promote legitimate diamond trade, the United States must initiate regular, independent, and systematic monitoring of diamond imports and exports. The American diamond industry must also adopt and enforce a credible system to make sure that companies are verifiably adhering to the scheme and responsibly sourcing diamonds. In addition to conducting oversight of these domestic activities, Congress needs to advocate and appropriate U.S. assistance for regional efforts to strengthen implementation of the Kimberley Process in Africa.

The release of the film "Blood Diamond" coincides with the holiday shopping season, and it should remind us all that much work remains to put an end to the illicit diamond trade that continues to fuel violence, finance criminals, and exploit innocent people and their environments. I remain committed to improving the Kimberley Process scheme at home and abroad and promoting active leadership by the U.S. government and the American diamond industry towards ensuring that diamond mining contributes to sustainable development in Africa, rather than fueling conflict by financing criminal activity.

CONDITIONS IN DARFUR

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I am grateful for the opportunity to join with my colleagues on the vitally important topic of Darfur and the entire humanitarian crisis facing that part of the world.