

(138) Beaver Creek Reservoir, Pennsylvania (\$3,000,000)	Specter	
(139) Myrtle Beach, South Carolina (\$10,000,000)	Graham	
(140) Charleston and West Ashley, South Carolina (\$6,000,000)	Graham	
(141) Charleston, South Carolina (\$3,000,000)	Graham	
(142) North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina (\$3,000,000)	Graham	
(143) Surfside, South Carolina (\$3,000,000)	Graham	
(144) Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation (Dewey and Ziebach Counties) and Perkins and Meade Counties, South Dakota (\$20,000,000)	Thune	
(145) City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee (\$4,000,000)	Alexander	Corker.
(146) Nashville, Tennessee (\$5,000,000)	Alexander	
(147) Counties of Lewis, Lawrence and Wayne, Tennessee (\$2,000,000)	Alexander	
(148) County of Giles, Tennessee (\$2,000,000)	Alexander	
(149) City of Knoxville, Tennessee (\$5,000,000)	Alexander	
(150) Shelby County, Tennessee (\$4,000,000)	Alexander	
(151) Johnson County, Tennessee (\$600,000)	Alexander	
(152) Plateau Utility District, Morgan County, Tennessee (\$1,000,000)	Alexander	
(153) City of Harrogate, Tennessee (\$2,000,000)	Alexander	
(154) Hamilton County, Tennessee (\$500,000)	Alexander	
(155) Grainger County, Tennessee (\$1,250,000)	Alexander	
(156) Claiborne County, Tennessee (\$1,250,000)	Alexander	
(157) Blaine, Tennessee (\$500,000)	Alexander	
(158) Chesapeake Bay (\$30,000,000)	Warner	
Section 5004:		
Alaska (\$15,000,000):	Stevens	Murkowski.
Section 5012:		
Big Creek, Georgia, Watershed Management and Restoration Program (\$5,000,000)	Chambliss	Isakson.
Section 5013:		
Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (\$20,000,000)	Chambliss	Isakson.
Section 5014:		
Idaho, Montana, Rural Nevada, New Mexico, Rural Utah, and Wyoming (Idaho—\$30,000,000; Utah—\$25,000,000; Wyoming—\$30,000,000)	Craig, (ID) Thomas (WY)	Bennett (UT), Crapo (ID).
Section 5017:		
Southeast Louisiana Region, Louisiana (\$17,000,000)	Vitter	
Section 5018:		
Mississippi (\$10,000,000)	Cochran	Lott.
Section 5021:		
North Carolina (\$13,000,000)	Burr	
Section 5022:		
Ohio River Basin Environmental Management (\$2,500,000)	Lugar	
Section 5023:		
Statewide Comprehensive Water Planning, Oklahoma (\$6,500,000)	Inhofe	
Section 5025:		
Texas (\$40,000,000)	Hutchison	Cornyn.

HONORING MOTHERS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Sunday, May 13, is Mother's Day. Motherhood and May are a perfect pairing of all that is warm and nurturing. The earth is soft and green, with the buds of new leaves and new life appearing everywhere. Birds fill the air with their love songs and flowers scent the breezes with their soft perfumes. All around us, if we but look, we see the signs of happy motherhood, from the ducklings in a neat line behind their mother on a pond to calves curled up asleep by their mother's feet in deep green pastures. In neighborhood parks, mothers bring their toddlers out to play in the sunshine before their afternoon naps or push sleeping newborns in strollers along shade-dappled paths. In the springtime, the great cycle of life is at its fullest flow.

On this one lovely spring Sunday, the Nation heeds the Biblical admonition to "honor thy mother." It is an opportunity to make up for those times all year that we may have overlooked our own mother's contributions to our well-being, or snapped at her well-meaning advice and loving attempts to straighten our collars and smooth our hair. Such is the lot of mothers—to be essential but so often unappreciated.

Mothers are like water—without a mother, life could not exist, while not enough mothering can stunt growth like a plant in a desert, but too much mothering can be as smothering as floodwaters on a field of corn.

Motherhood is a delicate high-wire act, balancing love and discipline, care and independence, attention and self-reliance. It is time consuming, often stressful, unpaid, and with no promotion and little recognition. It is a Sisyphean task. Yet mothers persevere, rising each day to begin anew, building families with every meal they prepare, every schedule they coordinate, every book they read with their children, every dirty sock they collect and transform into clean and folded laundry. It takes strong women to do it well and to keep up the effort over the many years of childrearing, for this is not a job that one can hand in a resignation letter or shop around a resume to find a better position. It is a job that is truly what a mother makes of it, for good or for ill. "The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world," observed W.R. Wallace.

Many great men have noted the influence of their mothers. George Washington wrote that "All I am I owe to my mother." Abraham Lincoln said

that "I remember my mother's prayers and they have always followed me. They have clung to me all my life." Booker T. Washington said that ". . . If I have done anything in my life worth attention, I feel sure that I inherited the disposition from my mother." Andrew Jackson observed that "The memory of my mother and her teachings were, after all, the only capital I had to start life with, and on that capital I have made my way." Their mothers' hands surely influenced the world through their mothering.

Most mothers will tell you that childrearing does not end after their children are officially grown up, either. Mothers remain a constant in the lives of their offspring for years afterward, sometimes actively involved and sometimes waiting in the background in case they are needed. The strains of sustaining the military deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan have resulted in many more military families calling upon grandmothers and grandfathers to raise their grandchildren while their military parents are deployed overseas for long periods. Strong families and loving mothers make this possible, if not desirable.

Often mothers with children also find themselves taking up a new and

unnamed role as mother to their own mother as she ages. Single women, too, can become mothers in this way, picking up more and more of the care of their aging parents. The willingness and love with which children care for their parents is a direct reflection of how good a job their parents did raising them. The writer Charlotte Gray observed that "Children and mothers never truly part—bound in the beating of each other's heart." It is just that sometimes, the roles of mother and child, caretaker and care-receiver, reverse. And while it can be sad to see one's mother failing, the burden of her care is lightened by the warm memories of all the nights her hands tucked in the bedcovers or checked a forehead for fever, and by all the prayers her lips have uttered on her child's behalf.

Mr. President, I close with a poem by an unknown author, entitled "Mother's Love":

MOTHER'S LOVE

Her love is like an island
In life's ocean, vast and wide
A peaceful, quiet shelter
From the wind, the rain, the tide.
'Tis bound on the north by Hope,
By Patience on the West,
By tender Counsel on the South,
And on the East by Rest.
Above it like a beacon light
Shine Faith, and Truth, and Prayer;
And thro' the changing scenes of life
I find a haven there.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LILY STEVENS, THE LAW SCHOOL GRADUATE

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, last month, this Chamber celebrated a milestone day in the life of our dear colleague, Senator TED STEVENS. On April 13, the senior Senator from Alaska became the longest serving Republican Senator in history. This was an important day for him. It was an historic day for us.

But having served in this Chamber with Senator STEVENS for more than four decades, and knowing him as I do, I feel confident that, in a few days, he will be celebrating what to him will be an even more important day. This Saturday, May 12, his lovely, talented, and beloved daughter Lily will graduate from law school. She will receive her Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law.

I extend my heartiest congratulations to Lily, whom I know quite well. I remember her as an infant when her father carried her around the Capitol in a basket. I remember attending the birthday parties that her father gave her. I enjoyed watching her grow up. Now she is the graduate of one of our Nation's most prestigious law schools. And she is ready to embark upon what I am confident will be a rewarding, productive, and most successful career.

Knowing Lily as I do, I am sure that she will see her graduation, not as the end, but as just another step in her

educational endeavors. As Solon, one of the seven wise men of Greece, observed, "I grow old in the pursuit of learning." Although Lily is a young woman, I am confident that she will grow old "in pursuit of learning."

Today, I congratulate her and wish her the best as she completes an important milestone in her education and her life, and embarks upon the next endeavor.

And I also congratulate her father, Senator TED STEVENS.

ABUSIVE LITIGATION IN AMERICA

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about abusive litigation in America. Unfortunately, many personal injury lawyers' insatiable appetites for a big payday by any theory imaginable are never satisfied, and so I come yet again to speak about tort reform—an issue I have worked on nearly every year that I have been in the Senate.

Earlier this week, as part of an ongoing effort to bring much-needed reform to our civil-justice system, I reintroduced the Commonsense Consumption Act with Senators PRYOR, GRAHAM, BAUCUS, CORNYN, LINCOLN, ALEXANDER, DOLE, and BUNNING.

When I first introduced the Commonsense Consumption Act in July of 2003, the effort by some unscrupulous personal injury lawyers to target food manufacturers and sellers was only beginning to take shape.

In fact, I noted at that time an article in the satirical newspaper "The Onion." This newspaper had gotten a big laugh through a spoof article entitled "Hershey's Ordered to Pay Obese Americans \$135 Billion."

The article poked fun at the worst excesses of plaintiff's attorneys, describing a class-action suit that accused the candy company of "knowingly and willfully marketing rich, fatty candy bars, containing chocolate and other ingredients of negligible nutritional value."

That spoof was published in August of 2000. But almost 7 years later, farce has become reality.

Frivolous lawsuits against the food industry are moving forward on a number of different fronts and a growing cadre of academics, overzealous public health advocates, and of course, personal injury lawyers, are forthright about their intentions to make food manufacturers and sellers the victims of their next huge payday.

One of the more prominent members of the movement to sue the food industry is John Banzhaf, a personal injury attorney and a professor. Banzhaf appears often in the media to discuss strategies for suing food producers and sellers.

In one appearance, Banzhaf told an interviewer in regard to obesity lawsuits:

[Y]ou may not like it . . . but we'll find a judge. And then we'll find a jury.

During another interview, Banzhaf proclaimed:

. . . we're going to sue them and sue them and sue them, and I think ultimately, as with tobacco, we're going to win.

The comparison of this litigation to the tobacco suits is apt, because trial attorneys are eager to find another industry to bear the burden of inflating their bank accounts. As Banzhaf told National Public Radio:

. . . when we proposed that the states would sue for the cost of health care for lung cancer, heart attack and so on, people thought the lawyers bringing those suits were crazy. They called them crazy. Today, we call them something else. We call them multimillionaires, because, as you know, they won over \$250 billion.

Indeed, a great deal of time and energy is being invested into strategies to transfer huge sums from the food industry to overeating plaintiffs and, more to the point, their exceedingly active lawyers.

But these lawsuits are not only about money. They also represent attempts by a small group of lawyers and special-interest groups to subvert the legislative process and impose by litigation what they cannot achieve at the ballot box. In 1999, Robert Reich, former Secretary of Labor under President Bill Clinton, said that, "The era of big government may be over, but the era of regulation by litigation has just begun."

Last November, a group calling itself the Public Health Advocacy Institute held its fourth annual conference regarding obesity litigation.

This is the same Public Health Advocacy Institute whose 2004 Conference featured a memorable overhead projection display proclaiming "Patience, hell. Let's sue somebody." And these groups will sue, and they will sue, and they will sue, until they have imposed their special-interest policy preferences on the rest of America.

This kind of reckless litigation cannot be allowed to continue. A Gallup poll found that 89 percent of Americans oppose holding the food industry legally responsible for the diet-related health problems of people who choose to eat fast-food on a regular basis.

The economic repercussions of this sort of frivolous litigation are very real. In fact, the food industry is one of the most important engines for our Nation's economy. The food retail sector of the industry is America's largest private-sector employer, providing jobs and livelihoods for more than 12 million Americans. Estimates suggest that the food industry is responsible for 4 percent of the United States GDP.

Nor is this an industry dominated by a small number of large market participants. Numerous mom-and-pop grocery stores, family-owned and operated restaurants, specialty producers, and other small businesses will find themselves in the crosshairs of the personal injury lawyers trying to cash in on obesity-related lawsuits.

Wayne Reaves, an entrepreneur who operates seven quick-service restaurants in the Northern Alabama region, testified before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative