

just in one region. Fuel, feed, and fertilizer costs have more than doubled. Only recently has the price of milk paid to farmers reached higher than the MILC program trigger price of \$16.94 per cwt. With the price of milk above this target price, no payments to farmers will be made, even though input costs have more than doubled. Addressing costs of production is necessary to ensure that our family dairy farmers survive.

The second bill that we have introduced aims to promote growth and opportunity for the dairy industry. This bill would change the current MILC program to a Milk Target Price Program and would link payments to dairy farmers on Class III milk. The program would pay farmers when the price of Class III falls below \$12.00 per hundred-weight. This trigger price would be adjusted by a feed adjustment factor to reflect the feed cost of producing 100 pounds of milk. The USDA would determine this factor based on a feed price index using a baseline period of calendar years 2001 through 2005.

Further, the second bill would require the mandatory reporting of dairy commodities by requiring that dairy prices be reported on a daily and weekly basis. The current system is not mandatory and it is estimated that dairy farmers lost \$6.4 million due to a Federal reporting error by the USDA over the past nine months. Along with 10 other Senators, I sent a letter to USDA Secretary Mike Johanns on May 9, 2007, requesting an explanation on how this misreporting occurred. This bill aims to close any loops in current law and assure proper auditing, data verification, and enforcement of reporting in order to ensure a transparent dairy market.

Finally, the second bill would provide authorization for a Federal dairy education loan forgiveness program. This would allow students at higher education institutions across America who focus on agriculture for a 2- or 4-year degree and become a full-time owner of a farm to become eligible to have their Federal student loans forgiven. This is aimed to ensure that there is a younger generation of farmers to work the lands across the fields in America.

Both of these bills aim to help our family dairy farms who deserve a fair price for their milk. I am committed to Pennsylvania's dairy farmers and will continue to work with my Pennsylvania colleague, Senator CASEY, and all my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to ensure our dairy farmers are not left behind. As more ideas and solutions are proposed, I will consider each and every one. Debate is important to finding a solution to any problem.

Farmers and rural America are the backbone of our great country. Every day, they work the fields, milk the cows, herd the cattle, and pick the produce. I myself grew up in rural Kansas and at the age of 14, I worked for Clyde Mills, father of my close friend and high school classmate Steve, driv-

ing a tractor in the wheat fields, providing lessons on the difficulties of working on a farm.

Agriculture is crucial to Pennsylvania and to the entire nation. We need to ensure that the next farm bill provides all our farmers with the assistance they need to overcome hardships, as well as providing our rural communities the financial and technical assistance they need to assure a vibrant and stable rural economy. Even though I voted against final passage of the 2002 farm bill because it disproportionately provided more Federal funds to other states and regions in the U.S., I look forward to working with the Senate Committee on Agriculture and my colleagues in the full Senate to ensure farmers across America are equitably treated when it comes to Federal agricultural programs and assistance.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

**SENATE RESOLUTION 258—RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL AND EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ATLANTIC FREEDOM TOUR OF THE FREEDOM SCHOONER AMISTAD, AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PRESERVING THE LEGACY OF THE AMISTAD STORY IS IMPORTANT IN PROMOTING MULTICULTURAL DIALOGUE, EDUCATION AND COOPERATION**

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 258

Whereas the Slave Trade Act of the British Parliament in 1807 was the first major legislation to abolish the slave trade and began the march to end slavery;

Whereas, in 1839, 53 Africans were illegally kidnapped from Sierra Leone and sold into the transatlantic slave trade;

Whereas the captives were brought to Havana, Cuba, aboard the Portuguese vessel *Tecora*, where they were fraudulently classified as native-born Cuban slaves;

Whereas the captives were sold to José Ruiz and Pedro Montez of Spain, who transferred them onto the coastal cargo schooner *La Amistad*;

Whereas, on the evening of the rebellion, *La Amistad* was secretly directed to return west up the coast of North America, where after two months the Africans were seized and arrested in New London, Connecticut;

Whereas the captives were jailed and awaited trial in New Haven, Connecticut;

Whereas the trial of the captives became historic when former President John Quincy Adams argued on behalf of the enslaved before the United States Supreme Court and won their freedom;

Whereas, in 2007, the Freedom Schooner *Amistad* will embark on its first transatlantic voyage to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade; and

Whereas the *Amistad* case represents an opportunity to call to public attention the evils of slavery and the struggle for freedom and the restoration of human dignity: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) the Senate recognizes the historical and educational significance of the Atlantic Freedom Tour of the Freedom Schooner *Amistad*;

(2) the Senate encourages the people of the United States to learn about the history of the United States and better understand the experiences that have shaped this Nation; and

(3) it is the sense of the Senate that preserving the legacy of the *Amistad* should be regarded as a means in fostering multicultural dialogue, education, and cooperation.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 259—COMMENDING THE OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY BASEBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2007 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES**

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 259

Whereas on June 24, 2007, the Oregon State University baseball team won the 2007 College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska after defeating California State University, Fullerton by a score of 3 to 2; Arizona State University by a score of 12 to 6; University of California, Irvine by a score of 7 to 1; and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the championship by scores of 11 to 4 and 9 to 3;

Whereas this is the second consecutive College World Series championship Oregon State University has won, making the University the first repeat College World Series champion in a decade;

Whereas the success of the team was a direct result of the skill, intensity, and resolve of every player on the Oregon State University baseball team, including Erik Ammon, Darwin Barney, Hunter Beaty, Scotty Berke, Reed Brown, Brian Budrow, Mitch Canham, Bryn Card, Brett Casey, Jackson Evans, Kyle Foster, Drew George, Mark Grbavac, Chad Hegdahl, Chris Hopkins, Koa Kahalehoe, Greg Keim, Blake Keitzman, Josh Keller, Eddie Kunz, Joey Lakowske, Lonnie Lechelt, Jordan Lennerton, Mike Lissman, Anton Maxwell, Jake McCormick, Chad Nading, Jason Ogata, Ryan Ortiz, Joe Paterson, Tyrell Poggemeyer, Joe Pratt, Jorge Reyes, Scott Santschi, Kraig Sitton, Alex Sogard, Dale Solomon, Michael Stutes, Daniel Turpen, John Wallace, Braden Wells, and Joey Wong;

Whereas freshman pitcher Jorge Reyes was recognized as the Most Outstanding Player of the 2007 College World Series tournament;

Whereas Darwin Barney, Mitch Canham, Mike Lissman, Jorge Reyes, Scott Santschi, and Joey Wong were named to the 2007 All-College World Series tournament team; and

Whereas the 2007 College World Series victory of the Oregon State University baseball team ended a terrific season in which the team compiled a record of 49 wins to 18 losses: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Oregon State University baseball team, Head Coach Pat Casey and his coaching staff, Athletic Director Bob DeCarolis, and Oregon State University President Edward John Ray on their tremendous accomplishment in defending their 2007 College World Series championship title; and

(2) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the President of Oregon State University.