and MBL Technologies, Inc., of Rockville, MD, Creative Computing Solutions, Inc. of Rockville, MD, and CPS Professional Services of Fairfax, VA, EMJ Corporation of Sacramento, CA, and 347 Group Construction of Roseville, CA, The George Solitt Construction Co. of Wood Dale, IL, and Industria, Inc. of Chicago, IL, The GRD Contractors, Inc. of Costa Mesa, CA, and Hubzone Corp. of Rancho Cucamonga, CA, Harris Corporation GCSD of Melbourne, FL, and Delta Corporation of Fulton, MD, Health Net Federal Services of Rancho Cordova, CA, and Three Wire Systems of Vienna, VA, ICF Incorporated of Fairfax, VA, and Nova Technology Solutions of Fairborn, OH, JOB Options, Inc. of San Diego, CA, and VETSUSA, LLC. of Falls Church, VA, Leopardo Companies, Inc. of Hoffman Estates, IL, and Segovia Group Corporation of San Antonio, TX, Lockheed Martin Corporation of Fairfax, VA, and Fulcrum Vets, LLC of Fairfax, VA, Marous Brothers Construction of Willoughby, OH, and Northstar Contracting, Inc. of North Olmstead, OH, McKesson Corporation of San Francisco, CA, and The Stay Safe Store of El Dorado Hills, CA, Metters Industries of McLean, VA, and Global Technology Solutions, LLC. of Corrales, NM, Northrup Grumman Corporation of Rockville, MD, and Heitech Services, Inc. of Landover, MD, Reva, Inc. of Newark, NJ, and M.E.R.I.T. Inc. of Newark, NJ, The Robins and Morton Group of Birmingham, AL, and Coburn Contractors of Montgomery, AL, Roy Anderson Corp. of Gulfport, MI, and the Bacik Group, LLC. of Columbus, GA, Sargent Electric Co. of Pittsburg, PA, and SGT LLC. Of Pittsburgh, PA, Secom Technical Services of Oak Ridge, TN, and Clauss Construction of Lakeside, CA, Simplex Grinnel of Columbia, MD, and Emergency Planning Management of Stafford, VA, Swinerton Government Services of Arvada, CO, and R.E.M. Engineering Company, Inc. of Pasadena, CA.

By fostering an environment where veteran entrepreneurs can grow their businesses, we affirm our commitment to those who have sacrificed so much. I encourage VA to strengthen the growing Mentor-Protégé Program and look forward to working with them to achieve their goals.

RESPONSIBLE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING ACT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I rise to make remarks on the introduction of the Responsible Electronics Recycling Act. I would like to thank Senators SHERROD BROWN and LISA MURKOWSKI for joining me in this bipartisan effort, as well as the House sponsors, Representatives GENE GREEN, MIKE THOMPSON, STEVEN LATOURETTE, and LEE TERRY.

Significant amounts of U.S. electronic waste are currently exported to developing countries that handle the waste in an unsafe manner. Much of this waste contains toxic materials, such as lead and mercury, and the workers who disassemble and process the electronics use crude, unsafe methods that can lead to health problems. This legislation would put an end to these dangerous practices. The Responsible Electronics Recycling Act would restrict the export of electronic waste, help boost the U.S. recycling industry, and support efforts to domestically recover rare earth materials found in electronics.

The United States is the only developed country that has not ratified the Basel Convention, which prohibits exports of hazardous waste to developing countries. Under the convention, much of the U.S. exportation of electronic waste to developing countries is illegal under the laws of the receiving countries but unfortunately, these laws are poorly enforced.

If we recycled these materials in the U.S., it would create recycling jobs for U.S. workers. Companies recycling in the U.S. often operate under capacity because they cannot compete with the cheaper option of exporting electronic waste to developing countries. We should be processing this waste using U.S. workers, and many companies stand at the ready to begin recycling additional electronic waste.

Moreover, the dumping of used electronics in the developing world can come back to haunt us. Some countries have active underground markets for U.S. hard drives, contributing to identity theft, as documented in a 2009 Frontline investigation. Business Week reported in 2010 that used computer chips from old personal computers are fraudulently re-marked in China as ''military grade'' chips and sold to U.S. military suppliers. Given the risks to our armed forces from defective equipment, I have also introduced the Combating Military Counterfeits Act to enhance the ability of prosecutors to keep counterfeit goods out of the military supply chain.

One of the benefits of recycling electronic waste domestically is the potential to recover rare elements in the process. Rare earth materials are vital to a number of manufacturing processes, including for products such as hybrid car batteries and solar panels, yet prices have skyrocketed as global supply has tightened. According to the Department of Energy, recycled content from electronics could be a valuable secondary source of rare earth materials, but additional research is required on recovery techniques and collection of electronic waste. This act would establish the Rare Earth Materials Recycling Research Initiative at the Department of Energy to coordinate research into the recovery of rare earth materials used in electronics.

The Responsible Electronics Recycling Act would also address the health, environmental, and national security concerns by amending the Solid Waste Disposal Act to prohibit the export of electronic waste to developing countries, with certain exceptions. These exceptions include legitimate exports of tested and working equipment, warranty returns, and recalls. There is also a de minimis exception to allow the export of materials that have so little toxicity they would not pose a risk to human health or the environment. Exporting under the exceptions would require a license and notice to the Environmental Protection Agency. Additional restrictions apply to exports for warranties or recalls, including written consent from the receiving country. The act creates a criminal penalty for knowingly exporting electronic waste, and provides the EPA the authority to inspect establishments handling electronic waste.

Twenty-five States, including Rhode Island, have passed electronic waste recycling laws. States such as Rhode Island already seek to ensure that their downstream recyclers do not export the electronic waste but instead responsibly recycle it here in the U.S. But States can only do so much and a federal law is needed to restrict these harmful exports.

We are pleased to have the support of a number of electronics manufacturers and retailers, including Hewlett Packard, Dell, Apple, Samsung, and Best Buy. We are also pleased to have the endorsement of 29 recyclers representing 74 recycling operations in 34 states. The breadth of our coalition is a testament to the consensus that the harmful export of these products must stop.

With more and more Americans relying on new technologies and generating a growing amount of electronic waste each year, we must take steps to properly dispose of this material. This legislation will crack down on the dumping of electronic waste on developing countries, protect American consumers from counterfeit schemes and identity theft, and support the growth of electronic waste recycling jobs in Rhode Island and across the country.

REMEMBERING JOHN MACKEY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, Baltimore lost one of its most beloved adopted sons last night, former Baltimore Colt tight end John Mackey. John revolutionized the position and was the second tight end to be enshrined in the National Football League's, NFL, Hall of Fame. He became the first president of the NFL Players Association, NFLPA, after the NFL merged with the old American Football League. He was a tenacious and effective advocate for the players, bargaining for higher salaries and better benefits. He organized a 3-day strike early in his tenure that generated an additional $11 million in pensions and benefits. Mackey also filed and won an antitrust lawsuit against the NFL which eliminated the so-called ''Rozelle Rule'' and ultimately paved the way for players' union to secure full free agency for its members.

For the last 10 years, he suffered from dementia and had to move into an assisted living facility that cost much more than his pension. So he and his beloved wife Sylvia led the fight to convince the NFLPA and the NFL to establish the ''88 Plan,'' named for his uniform number, which provides adult day care and nursing home care for retired players suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Even in death, John continues to give: Sylvia has announced that his brain will be donated to a Boston University School of Medicine study of brain damage in athletes. Researchers at the university's Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy are examining potential links between repeated concussions and chronic traumatic encephalopathy, CTE, a condition which mirrors symptoms of dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

John Mackey grew up in Roosevelt, NY. He was a man of strong convictions, a character trait he inherited from his father, who was a Baptist minister. John was offered an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy but turned it down to attend Syracuse University, where he studied economics, became an All-American football player, and roomed with Ernie Davis, who became the first African American to win the Heisman Trophy. The Colts drafted him in 1963 and he caught more touchdown passes and gained more yards as a rookie than the team's two wide receivers, Hall of Famer Raymond Berry and Jimmy Orr. John was big and strong, like other tight ends of his era, but he could run after catching a pass like no other tight end before him. As Hall of Fame coach Don Shula said, ''Mackey gave us a tight end who weighed 230, ran a 4.6 and could catch the bomb. It was a weapon other teams didn't have.''

John was a three-time All-NFL selection. He played in five Pro Bowls. In 1969, while still playing, he made the NFL's 50th anniversary team as pro football's all-time tight end. Over the course of his career, he caught 38 touchdown passes, 13 of which were for 50 yards or more, including an 89-yarder against the Los Angeles Rams in 1966. That particular touchdown pass was the longest of the 290 scoring passes in Hall of Fame legend Johnny Unitas's career. In a 10-year career, John caught 331 passes for 5,236 yards. Perhaps the biggest and most memorable play in John's career came in the 1971 Super Bowl, when he caught a pass from Unitas that had been deflected by two other players—Colts receiver Eddie Hinton and Dallas Cowboys defender Mike Renfro—and scored a touchdown on the 75-yard play. The Colts went on to win that game in dramatic fashion on Jim O'Brien's field goal with 5 seconds left in the game.

By the time John retired, he had already endeared himself to the people of Baltimore, but he wasn't finished. He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1992, but he refused to accept his ceremonial ring in Indianapolis, where the Colts had moved in 1984. He said, ''I will do it in Baltimore. That is where I played.'' And so he received his Hall of Fame ring in Memorial Stadium, at half-time of an exhibition game between Miami and New Orleans.

I send my deepest condolences to John's wife Sylvia, to whom he was married for 47 years; his son John Kevin Mackey of Atlanta; two daughters Lisa Mackey Hazel of Bowie and Laura Mackey Nattans of Baltimore; and John and Sylvia's six grandchildren. John Mackey has been taken from us much too soon, but what a life he lived. He was one of the greatest collegiate and professional football players of all time. The Mackey Award is given annually to the best tight end in college. He is enshrined in the Hall of Fame. He led the NFLPA and then courageously led the fight for retired players which culminated in the ''88 Plan.'' His accomplishments and legacy will endure in the hearts and minds of his fellow players and Baltimore Colts fans and football fans forever.

EPA RULING

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, the Environmental Protection Agency took steps to make the air in Vermont cleaner by issuing the final cross-State air pollution rule.

In Vermont, we pride ourselves on our bucolic views, unspoiled waterways, and our connection to the land. Yet, all of this is threatened by pollution that is beyond our control, and coming from beyond our borders. Vermont has always been a dumping ground, so to speak, for emissions from coal-fired powerplants from other States. Toxic pollution, generated in other parts of the country, blows into Vermont and damages our State's scenic beauty, decreases the value of conservation investments, and damages our forests, lakes, rivers, and wetlands.

These powerplant emissions and air pollution are transported long distances and not only mars our landscapes and threatens our health, but it also costs downwind States and businesses billions of dollars annually. Our only defense against such activity is the Federal Clean Air Act. Today, with the implementation of the EPA's cross-State air pollution rule, powerplants will be required to install new pollution controls that reduce the amount of dangerous emissions crossing State lines and entering Vermont. This will level the playing field by requiring powerplants to make long overdue investments in proven, readily available pollution control technologies that are already in place at many powerplants.

The cross-State air pollution rule requires many fossil fuel-fired powerplants to slash emissions that cross State lines and contribute to ground-level ozone and fine particle pollution in other States. These pollutants contribute to smog and air pollution which causes tens of thousands of Americans to become sick each year. Those most susceptible to illnesses related to poor air quality are often our most vulnerable citizens. The elderly and children, especially those already suffering from respiratory disorders like asthma, are routinely forced to stay inside on poor air quality days.

Pollution is also responsible for thousands of new respiratory illnesses each year, adding more unnecessary costs to our health care system. In fact, the reductions contained in this rule would prevent 14,000 to 36,000 premature deaths each year, 23,000 nonfatal heart attacks, 21,000 cases of acute bronchitis, 240,000 cases of aggravated asthma, and 1.9 million missed school and work days. The total benefits of this rule are estimated to be $120–290 billion.

Some believe these benefits are not worth the costs to industry. However, the cross-State air pollution rule is projected to cost industry from $10–30 billion, a very modest amount compared to the financial benefits and deaths prevented by this rule. In addition, a utility-funded report recently contradicted arguments that the rule will threaten U.S. electricity reliability. The reason for this is that a majority of utilities have already taken steps to adapt to Federal rules. In fact, over half of the country's coal-fired powerplants have already installed sulfur dioxide scrubbers or plan to install them. Of those that had plans to retire units, they are doing so because they are inefficient and cannot compete in today's market, not because of these rules.

In the end, only about one-fourth of the Nation's powerplants need to take action. Are we going to let these plants, which have dragged their feet, refusing to install new technology that would prevent pollution and prevent deaths and serious illness, continue to poison our air on the public's dime?

No, instead we should encourage the use of cleaner technologies that will lead to healthier air, increased efficiency, and a boost in jobs. Overall, regulations under the Clean Air Act have dramatically reduced air pollution while creating jobs and spurring American innovation in new industries and technology. Reports show the creation of 1.5 million jobs over the next 5 years and increased global exports of domestically produced clean technologies. History has demonstrated that since 1970, every dollar spent on compliance with the Clean Air Act has led to $4–$8 in economic benefits. By 2020, the total benefits of the Clean Air Act will reach $2 trillion.

Coming from a State with no coal-fired powerplants that has been on the receiving end of these pollutants for far too long, I fully welcome the final cross-State air pollution rule because I know that it will improve the quality of life for Vermonters who are subject to the impacts, and costs, of pollution from far beyond our borders. This rule is good for Vermont. It is good for the