

we develop our domestic enrichment capabilities so we as a Nation do not create an unhealthy reliance on foreign nations for our sources of enriched uranium. It is especially important to our States that ACP will create a new domestic manufacturing infrastructure of 6,000 high-skilled jobs in 12 states. In addition, many of the technologies ACP would utilize, such as high precision machining and carbon fiber fabrication, will be able to support the growth of other new domestic industries.

Your Administration has taken a leadership role in promoting the resurgence of safe and secure domestic nuclear energy. The ACP project offers the opportunity to put a tangible capstone on this effort.

While DOE has made significant progress with its loan guarantee program, continued implementation of the ACP project is vulnerable without timely action and a conditional loan guarantee agreement. Therefore, we are seeking your commitment to set the appropriate timetable for decision-making, without compromise to the creditworthiness standards set for the program. Your leadership also would send a strong message that the business of government has not been diminished during this time of turmoil in the financial markets.

We will continue to work with your staff to reach a conditional loan guarantee agreement by the end of this Administration.

Sincerely,

TED STRICKLAND,
Governor of Ohio.
MARTIN O'MALLEY,
Governor of Maryland.
PHIL BREIDENBACH,
Governor of Tennessee.
STEVEN L. BESHEAR,
Governor of Kentucky.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2008.

Governor TED STRICKLAND,
Riffe Center,
Columbus, OH.

DEAR GOVERNOR STRICKLAND: You have continued to be a strong advocate for the workforce and surrounding communities of the Piketon Enrichment Plant and throughout Ohio. This workforce and community have made significant contributions to our nation's defense and energy security needs for over the past half-century.

There are a number of steps I will take as President to assure the future health and prosperity of this community and its workforce. Under my administration, the Piketon site workforce and the surrounding communities will play a central role in our nation's domestic energy supply through private sector and government initiatives. The Piketon site is ideal for either traditional or advanced energy programs, or both. The Piketon site has vast infrastructure and potential reuse applications are very promising.

Under my administration, energy programs that promote safe and environmentally-sound technologies and are domestically produced, such as the enrichment facility in Ohio, will have my full support. I will work with the Department of Energy to help make loan guarantees available for this and other advanced energy programs that reduce carbon emissions and break the tie to high cost, foreign energy sources.

I will ensure that workers' rights, pensions and retirement health care benefits are fully protected and facilitate pension portability for workers among the various contractors and subcontractors as new missions unfold with the Department of Energy. We will work with the respective union leadership at the Portsmouth site to assure that their members' rights are fully protected.

I will assure that the benefits due under the "Energy Employee Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act" of 2000 will be provided in a timely and equitable manner. I understand that it is imperative to help those workers who were made sick or ill while serving in our nation's defense nuclear facilities. The delays and foot-dragging over the past several years is simply inexcusable. If necessary, I will support legislative reforms to assure that workers will be promptly compensated. I will not tolerate further excuses or delays in the implementation of this important legislation, which has left deserving workers waiting. I will also support the on-going medical screening program to help workers identify occupational illnesses that may have been caused from work at this facility.

I will work with Congress to provide adequate funding and will direct the Energy Department to commence Decontamination and Decommissioning activities of those facilities which are no longer needed, and maximize the employment of site workers to achieve this end. The failure to clean up this site quickly will delay future economic development opportunities and only add additional mortgage costs and pose undue environmental risks.

I will help assure the Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (DUF-6) Conversion Facility in Piketon will be operational on an expedited time schedule. This project was authorized through legislation in July 1998, however, it is still not operational. I will work with Congress to fund this project and the disposition of the 20,000 plus cylinders of legacy uranium material. This project will create jobs for at least 20 years and remove thousands of tons of depleted uranium.

I will support funding the cleanup of soil, groundwater and hazardous waste from legacy operations. I want to assure that when we declare the Piketon site is cleaned up, it will mean that health and environmental hazards are not left behind so that new businesses can locate at the Piketon facility without concern.

I will direct my Administration to work with the community leadership to develop a long-term site plan to include opportunities to reuse the Portsmouth plant site and maximize the vast infrastructure while creating needed jobs in the Southern Ohio region. I am committed to making the Piketon facility a "multi-mission site" to drive economic development and environmental improvements.

Combined, I recognize these steps will assure energy security, environmental restoration and job creation for Southeastern Ohio and I look forward to working with you on this important project for the state.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA.
CLERICAL ERROR ON BEEF IMPROVEMENT
RESEARCH

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I rise today to join with our Chair, Senator KOHL, in a colloquy to correct a clerical error in the attribution table accompanying Division I of H.R. 1105. Senator BOND is listed as having requested the "Beef Improvement Research" project under the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service. My staff has confirmed that this project was not requested by Senator BOND and, as such, Senator BOND's name should not be listed as a requester.

Mr. KOHL. My colleague and former subcommittee ranking member, Sen-

ator BENNETT, is correct. This resulted from a clerical error involving confusion between two different projects on beef research. Senator BOND should not be listed as a sponsor of the Beef Improvement Research project.

Mr. BENNETT. I thank the Chair for his assistance in this matter.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise today to address a provision in the statement to accompany the fiscal year 2009 Omnibus appropriations bill that seeks to address a critical issue in our country, the rising rate of childhood obesity. Over the last several years, Senator HARKIN and I have worked jointly to address this issue.

During this time, we have focused our efforts on bringing together the different sectors in our society that are equipped to address this crucial issue for our Nation's children. It is my firm belief, that there is not just one solution to reducing the rates of childhood obesity but this should be a collective effort.

To that end, I am encouraged that there are those in the food and beverage industry, the advertising industry and media industry that have taken voluntary steps to address this issue.

I am pleased that the Ad Council has also worked to address childhood obesity as well with donated multimedia efforts since October 2005 that have equaled \$170 million. This initiative includes creative partnerships with NFL, Qubo, an NBC-owned children's network, and the U.S. Olympics.

It is my firm belief that the best option to address this issue is not by rushing into government regulation but by working together to address this issue within our spirit of a free-market society—and that is the intention behind this language that directs the Federal Trade Commission to create a working group among the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Secretary of Agriculture. I also hope that as this working group convenes they will first study the Better Business Bureau's Children's Food and Beverage Advertising Initiative, and determine whether initiatives such as these would suffice to address this crucial issue, before they implement the remainder of the directive. And, consistent with the current focus of self-regulatory initiatives, I think it would be more appropriate to limit the scope of the working group activities to children under the age of 12.

I have found that oftentimes the best results are rooted in industry-led reforms and it is my intention that this working group will keep this intent in mind as they study and develop ways in which to address foods marketed to our children. For example, in July 2007 and again in September 2008, the Grocery Manufacturers Association commissioned studies of U.S. advertising trends through Georgetown Economic Services. These studies have shown that as food and beverage marketers

have shifted the mix of products advertised to children, not only are children today seeing fewer food, beverage and restaurant ads on television, they are seeing far fewer ads for soft drinks, cookies, snacks and candy, while being exposed to more ads for soups, juices, fruits, and vegetables and water than they were in 2004.

I truly believe that with everyone coming together around a free market principled approach that we will have more expedient and effective results for our children.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I support the Omnibus Appropriations Act. I appreciate all of the efforts made by my friend, the senior Senator from Hawaii, to develop and manage this tremendously important bill. I also value the effort of the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee as well as all of the work done by the subcommittee chairmen and ranking members to draft the omnibus.

Continuing resolutions hinder the ability of agencies to meet the needs of our communities and address changing circumstances. We must enact this legislation in order to have a more effective and responsive Federal Government in dealing with many of the problems that our Nation is confronted with currently. This legislation improves access to health care, education, housing, and economic development opportunities. It also provides essential support for financial literacy programs, transportation infrastructure investments, sustainable energy development, natural resource preservation, and investor protection efforts.

This bill will help further promote medical research. Investments in medical research have tremendous potential to improve the lives of so many people by developing better methods to prevent, detect, and treat different illnesses. I am also proud that the legislation increases the ability of our federally qualified community health centers to better meet the medical needs of our communities.

The fiscal year 2009 omnibus bill will help ensure that our Nation's students are prepared for the challenges of the 21st century. This includes funding for programs to help disadvantaged students reach their potential as well as funding to help recruit and retain highly skilled and talented teachers. The fiscal year 2009 Omnibus also includes \$1.2 million in funding for Impact Aid. Impact Aid assists school districts that have lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt Federal property, including Indian lands and military bases. It is vital to a State like Hawaii where there is a significant military presence.

This legislation also provides vital resources for housing. Ten million dollars is provided for the Native Hawaiian housing block grant, which is administered in the State of Hawaii by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, DHHL. DHHL is the largest affordable housing developer in the State

of Hawaii. Although these resources provide only about one-tenth of the DHHL's spending, it is extremely important to support additional home ownership opportunities for residents throughout Hawaii.

I also appreciated the inclusion of funding for the Laiopua 2020 Community Center. Economic Development Initiative resources will facilitate the development of this comprehensive community center. The community center will improve the quality of life for residents in the growing Kona community by increasing access to social services, recreational facilities, and educational and economic opportunities.

The omnibus provides a slight increase in resources for the Community Development Block Grant, CDBG, Program. CDBG provides essential Federal resources to help meet the specific needs of communities. In Hawaii, our counties utilize CDBG resources to help provide affordable housing, assist the homeless, expand day care facilities, provide meals to low-income families, strengthen our medical infrastructure by making physical improvements to our community health centers, and expand opportunities to help individuals with disabilities find employment.

This bill provides essential resources intended to improve our Nation's financial literacy lending and improve individual understanding of economics and personal finance. This bill includes \$1.447 million in funding to implement the Excellence in Economic Education Act, which promotes economic and financial literacy among students in kindergarten through high school. An additional \$1.6 million is provided for the Department of the Treasury's Office of Financial Education to increase access to financial education and protect consumers against predatory lending. Also, I applaud the inclusion of a directive in the bill that requires the Internal Revenue Service, IRS, in consultation with the National Taxpayer Advocate, to educate consumers about the costs of refund anticipation loans and expand access to alternative methods of obtaining timely refunds.

The act also will improve our roads, transit, and airports; strengthen Hawaii's transportation infrastructure; and increase the mobility of our residents.

Provisions contained within the act enable the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to address our Nation's critical navigation, flood control, and environmental restoration needs. I was pleased that more than \$1.6 million was provided for Hawaii projects.

Recognizing that shoreline erosion threatens upland development and coastal habitats along much of Hawaii's shoreline, I worked to provide funding for a regional sediment management demonstration program to further understand the dynamics of complex coastal processes and promote the development of long-term strategies for sediment management. On the

island of Molokai funding has been provided to complete a much needed water resource study in order to more effectively manage ground-water resources. Wise stewardship and management at a watershed level has a significant impact on the health and quality of numerous natural resources. Inclusion of funds to address stream management and restoration is critical for Hawaii. These resources will assist and protect communities in Hawaii from destruction caused by severe weather and flooding, as well as promote conservation and revival of our islands' ecosystems.

The fiscal year 2009 omnibus includes provisions that will go a long way to improve advancements in science and technology, as well as enhance U.S. competitiveness. In Hawaii and the Pacific, we are uniquely confronted by climate fluctuations and its impact on the public, economic development, and health of our ecosystems and wildlife. I am proud to have supported the inclusion of \$1.75 million for the International Pacific Research Center at the University of Hawaii to conduct systematic and reliable climatographic research of the Pacific region. Improving our understanding of climate variability empowers us to use data and models to mitigate adverse impacts.

Hawaii is home to some of the world's most critically threatened and endangered species, including the endemic Hawaiian monk seal. For years I have been an advocate for the conservation and recovery of the critically endangered monk seal and other cetaceans in the Pacific. The National Marine Fisheries Service issued the first Hawaiian monk seal recovery plan in 1983 and a revised plan in 2007. The Hawaiian monk seals are vulnerable due to a variety of influences, including human disturbances of birth and nursery habitats, entanglement in marine debris, and commercial fisheries. In the last 50 years the Hawaiian monk seal population has fallen by 60 percent. To address this need, I worked to include \$2.6 million in this act to address female and juvenile monk seal survival and enhancement, as well as efforts to minimize monk seal mortality. In addition, these funds will strengthen coordinated regional office efforts for field response teams and enhance implementation of the 2007 recovery plan.

The preservation of our national parks, forests, and public lands has been a priority of utmost importance. Public lands are valued assets that must be properly managed for the benefit of all Americans and future generations. I am encouraged that the act supports the preservation of our natural landscapes, furthers conservation of wildlife, expands water resource assessment, and fosters wise management of our Nation's natural resources.

Given the unique needs of Hawaii, I supported funding in the Fiscal Year 2009 omnibus to fortify the preservation of four endangered Hawaiian