

brown bears, and to caribou. Its location on the Alaska peninsula makes the Refuge a critical resting and feeding ground for migratory waterfowl that pass through Izembek each spring and fall.

This is a map which shows the migratory patterns of various waterfowl and other birds, such as the Black Brant—the purple line here. They stop here at Izembek. 100,000 Emperor Geese stop here in the spring and fall; 150,000 Black Brant, 85,000 Canadian Geese, 150,000 Steller's Eider, and about 31 species of shore birds. These are the Arctic breeding grounds in the summer, and parts of the year they go south to winter. It is a very important refuge.

This rider, I might say, would cut this Refuge in half. It would fragment the coastal wetlands and tundra that are considered essential to many of these species. It would destroy the character of the wilderness area.

This, Mr. President, is the picture of a typical road in Alaska that would be contemplated by this amendment. You can see what condition it is in. This is a very good road. In comparison, this is a road that now exists in part of the wilderness area. This is what is there now. This is what would be contemplated. As you can tell, it is a pretty good size road. It is no small little cow path.

Third, and perhaps most significantly, there are many ways to address the legitimate transportation problems at King Cove without violating the Izembek Refuge: Coast Guard air evacuation is one; better port facilities and special marine ambulances are another; as well as telemedicine and other medical advances. After all, in bad weather, with high winds and blowing snow, a road can be very risky and often impassable.

In fact, I might read a letter from the Anchorage Daily News. It is a citizen, Tara P. Fuller, who is from Cold Bay. I will put it in the RECORD, but her basic point is that this is ridiculous, this amendment, this rider, which would allow this road. Because, she says, often this road would be totally impassable with snowdrifts. When storms come, the road would have to be plowed.

I ask unanimous consent to have that letter printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ROAD NO HELP IN BAD WEATHER

Regarding the King Cove-to-Cold Bay "Rescue Road in Alaska":

As a lifelong resident of this area, I have some great concerns with the proposed legislation to grant a right of way for a 27-mile road from King Cove to Cold Bay, 10 miles of which would be in Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and seven miles of which would be in the wilderness area.

To say this road is the only alternative to the health and safety issue is ridiculous. How could this possibly be true? When we are having inclement weather, are we to believe a vehicle could drive some 27 miles in whiteout conditions, drifting snow and

winds? I lived 3.2 miles out of the town of Cold Bay for four years, with so-called "road access" to Cold Bay, and during winter spent many days stranded either at home or in town, depending on where I was when the storm came. Drifting snow would be so bad, it would take days to get the 3.2 miles of road plowed enough to be passable.

I would also like to say that during the 14 years I have spent living in Cold Bay, I have yet to see the bay freeze over, making a marine link with a breakwater/harbor the only viable and obvious alternative to the road.

As Murkowski, Stevens and Young are trying to ramrod this through Congress, I would like to see them show up in Cold Bay and ask some of us Cold Bay residents how we feel instead of assuming we also are in favor of this "King Cove to Cold Bay Road."

TARA P. FULLER,
Cold Bay.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask for 3 more minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. How long, Mr. President?

Mr. BAUCUS. Three minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana is recognized for an additional 3 minutes.

Mr. BAUCUS. The State of Alaska is already evaluating various alternatives and there is provision in the current transportation appropriations bill, that the Senate passed in July, that adds \$700,000 for the Corps of Engineers to study rural access issues in Alaska. That is already in there. Alaska is now studying various alternatives that affect rural access issues.

With these two studies out there, one by the State of Alaska and the other by the Army Corps of Engineers, now is not the time to jump to conclusions and pass a rider which authorizes the construction of a road through a wilderness area.

I say, let's let the studies examine the evidence, let the studies weigh the alternatives. Let's see if the road is, in fact, the best way to meet the stated needs. It may be and may not be. But the fact of the matter is, when you look a lot deeper into this, the real impetus behind the road may not be emergency medical evacuation. That is not the real driving force here. Really, it is that the folks there have an economic interest in having a road.

I might say, too, that is true of many communities—not only in Alaska, but other parts of the country. I understand those needs. People move to and live in King Cove because they want to live there. That is their home. That is their choice. There are ways to deal with the medical needs that may arise, but I do not think it makes sense to put in an appropriations bill a requirement that a road be built when there are two outstanding studies looking at this issue to see what the best way is to solve the access issue, particularly with respect to emergency medical services.

Mr. President, with that I yield the floor. I see my good friend from Mis-

souri on the floor. I cannot, for the life of me, have any idea what he is going to talk about, given the State he is from and given the magnificent feat of one of his local citizens in the last few days, with the number 70 behind it.

I very respectfully yield the floor so my good friend from Missouri can address the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from the great State of Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank my friend from Montana. I also thank the distinguished chairman of the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee.

MARK MCGWIRE INTERSTATE ROUTE 70

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, Sunday evening in St. Charles, MO, I was attending a picnic. Late in the afternoon a bright-eyed, starry-eyed 10-year-old boy came in. He had just witnessed something that is truly historic. I told the young man I hoped he had a really good memory, because I imagine that he would be telling not only his schoolmates, but his children and his grandchildren, and we might even hope his great grandchildren about it.

As a matter of fact, as we travel around Missouri and other parts of the country, people have been talking about it all over. That is, of course, that on Sunday, Mark McGwire of the St. Louis Cardinals hit his 69th and 70th home run this season; a grand total of 70 home runs. To do that, he hit 5 home runs in his last 11 at bats.

There were people who thought it would be very difficult to break the wonderful record that Roger Maris had established of 61 home runs. This year we saw something truly extraordinary. Another outstanding athlete, Sammy Sosa, hit 66. And the contest between these two superb athletes and wonderful human beings electrified this country. As somebody who has been a baseball fan for a long time, I was so delighted to see the excitement and enthusiasm as baseball came back to the status it has had as our Nation's pastime. People who never cared about sports in my State were clustering around the radios or the television whenever Mark McGwire came up.

Mark McGwire is a man of immense physical stature, conditioning and strength. When I met him I was overwhelmed with his size and muscle. But he is a man of great mental dedication, of great concentration, determination, and—reading the column in today's Washington Post by Tom Boswell—probably possessing other extraordinary capabilities of which we mere mortals cannot be aware.

He did something that, for baseball fans, was truly remarkable. It has done more for our State, the city of St. Louis—but for the country as well—when we look at the sportsmanship and the example of how hard work and determination and doggedness pay off. I would like to believe in other countries

where baseball is played they felt the same excitement and the same enthusiasm that we did.

To both Mark McGwire and to Sammy Sosa, we say congratulations and thank you for a wonderful season. Mr. Sosa has some more games to play with the Chicago Cubs. But I did not want this moment to pass without asking this body to consider acting on something that I think is a good idea. Actually, I read about it on the sports page. Bernie Miklasz' column in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch suggested it. I talked to my friends at the St. Louis Cardinals and they have been thinking about it. You see, there is an interstate highway that runs through St. Louis, interstate 70—a very fortuitous number, given the feat that Mr. McGwire has achieved.

There are some of us—we don't want to raise a question, be nitpicking—who think he actually hit 71, if you count one in Milwaukee. But we are willing to pass on that one and say that there were 70 home runs that were hit. I am going to propose a measure today to designate a portion of interstate 70 in Missouri as the Mark McGwire Interstate Route 70; through St. Louis County and St. Louis City, to recognize the man who has not only brought baseball back to the top of everybody's mind and heart, but has done a tremendous amount for the community as well.

This, I think, is a small measure for us to undertake. We are contacting our colleagues in the House to ask for their support. The mayor of St. Louis has indicated his support, and we are asking others to join with us. We hope to have clearance later on today, if we can obtain clearance to pass it in wrap-up.

We also invite additional cosponsors. I have three who wish to cosponsor it to recognize this tremendous feat and to designate this in honor of the man who has really brought the thrill back to baseball and has shown that human beings have tremendous talent.

I send to the desk a bill to designate the Mark McGwire Interstate Route 70.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, before being referred, that the bill be held at the desk to seek clearance from the minority side of the aisle.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOMENICI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, has Senator BOND finished?

Mr. BOND. Yes.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, in a moment I am going to ask consent on something, but I thank Senator BOND and congratulate him for what he did today. I don't know if we can do anything that is enough in response to the marvelous baseball year that Mark McGwire and others have given to the American people.

I suggest that in an America that has grown so cynical about anything, wasn't it a marvelous thing to see how the people responded to the genuine-

ness, the frankness, the decency of both Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa? Just remember, on a number of those very important home runs, those people who caught that ball, without one moment's hesitation—until right at the end, of course—they said the ball belongs to him; they weren't trying to get rich. It was just absolutely marvelous for the United States to see that kind of thing happen.

Then to see the friendship between two people who are really at war in a very civil and different kind of way to break this title, which both of them did, which has been there for 37 years, and see how they related to each other. I think they have become genuine friends while they have proceeded, each in their individual way, to try to break one of the most important and difficult athletic standards in all of organized athletics worldwide.

I believe if the Senate understands what has happened, they are going to approve that very soon. I commend the Senator for it, and I hope Mark McGwire and his family understand the reason for you doing this and why we are probably going to unanimously accept it. I thank the Senator.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business and then proceed to a unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESTORING CONFIDENCE TO WORLD FINANCIAL MARKETS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, the Federal Reserve today decided to cut interest rates, and this is a very important step toward restoring confidence and stability in the world's financial markets. It shows that the world's policymakers are taking an active role in ensuring that financial contagion does not spread further. It is also an insurance policy against further damage to the U.S. economy from international events which currently are out of our control.

However, the U.S. Federal Reserve cannot resolve the current financial crisis alone. Investors are shunning the emerging markets because of a heightened sense of the risk that is there. In order to get money flowing to these regions again, nations must improve their banking regulations and must make information about their financial systems more available. This will assure investors and will help resolve much of the current crisis.

As policymakers, we should aid the Fed's effort to restore international confidence by approving the International Monetary Fund's request with appropriate amendments. We should also remain confident that the Fed will continue to act in a way that ensures maximum U.S. long-term growth, as they have done in the past and, as I gather, they decided to do today.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 4060

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I note there is a minority Member on the floor. I would not make this request if there was not.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4060; that there be 40 minutes for debate, with 30 minutes under the control of Senator GRAHAM from Florida; and that the remaining 10 minutes be equally divided between Senator REID of Nevada and myself, as ranking member and chairman, respectively, managers of the bill. I further ask unanimous consent that upon the conclusion or yielding back of time, the conference report be adopted and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, on behalf of another Democratic Senator, I must respectfully object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I had hoped the Senator would have stated the name of the Senator, because he has already talked to us, so we all know who it is.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I say to my friend, he can mention the name because he knows more than I do. I don't know the name.

Mr. DOMENICI. Distinguished Senator HARKIN is the Senator who told me he is going to object. He is not here, so the Senator from Montana is objecting.

I say to the Senate—in a way to the absent Senator HARKIN—frankly, this is a completed conference report on one of the required annual appropriations bills. From what I understand, there is no objection to this bill. From what I understand, it passed the House 389 to 25.

We are all engaged in trying to get the appropriations bills passed because that is our duty. We are supposed to have them finished before the fiscal year ends, and there are constant complaints that we don't get it done.

Essentially, tomorrow is the end of the year. We worked very hard, Democrats and Republicans, House and Senate, to get this bill done, to meet it, have it within our allocation so it does not break the budget, to do it in the way that most probably will get a Presidential signature.

The Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the entire Department of Energy, both defense and non-defense, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission—they cannot help Senator HARKIN. They are all in this bill. They should get their funding. They can't help Senator HARKIN solve the problem of the labor, health, and human services bill, which the Senator from Iowa thinks needs a further allocation of resources in order to accomplish what he, as ranking member, thinks should be done.