My amendment helps consumers get important information that will enable them to analyze how to manage their credit card borrowing more effectively.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY MONTH

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, as we come to the end of the first month of the new millennium, I want to make a few remarks about the great promise of biotechnology in benefitting the American public. In fact, January 2000 has been very appropriately designated as Biotechnology Month.

In my view, this first century of the new millennium will be remembered by historians for revolutionary advances in biomedical research. It is fitting that in the next few months scientists will complete the mapping of the human genome—the basic blueprint of the structure of human beings. This event ranks very high in the technological achievements of mankind.

It is also noteworthy that this task required the confluence of some of the best minds in the medical sciences and computer technology. Frankly, the mapping of the human genome simply would not have been possible at this time absent the development of the low-cost, high-speed computers that have been available to scientists in recent years. Over the next few decades perhaps no more valuable cargo will travel down the information highway of the Internet than the gene maps.

This new knowledge will not sit idly in digital databases. For once the detailed genetic structure is known and accessible, researchers will be better able to understand the function of individual genes and complex interactions among collections of genes. Once both structure and function are ascertained, diagnostic tools, therapeutic agents and preventives such as vaccines can be more easily developed. It is the American public who stands to benefit most from this new knowledge and products.

It would be difficult to underestimate the effect that biotechnology will have on health care delivery and, more to the point, on the health status of the American public and our neighbors throughout the world. In the area of cancer, for example, we are positioned to make substantial gains in knowledge that will make traditional treatments obsolete. I am pleased that the University of Utah and Myriad Genetics, a small Salt Lake City biotech firm, are at the forefront of the battle against breast cancer. Their work on the BRCA–I gene has contributed substantially to our understanding of how this terrible disease is triggered genetically. All of us wish success to these Utah scientists and their colleagues throughout the world in their efforts to curtail breast cancer.

Advances in biotechnology will also emanate from the medical device industry. For example, Paradigm Medical Industries, another Salt Lake City firm, is refining existing laser technology in order to develop a new ''cold'' laser that promises to reduce the adverse reactions rate associated with cataract surgery. While I may not be expert in all the scientific underpinnings of this new photon phacoemulsification system, I can say that since over 3 million cataract procedures are performed annually it is in the interest of the public to cut down on the current corneal burn rate of about 1,000 per day.

As a representative of the people of Utah, I am proud to report that my state is home to over 120 companies in the biosciences. These firms employ over 11,000 Utahns and an additional 2,500 individuals outside of Utah. Total annual revenues of these Utah bioscience firms is in excess of $1.6 billion. The aggregate estimated market value of these firms exceeds $8 billion.

The success of Utah in the exciting arena of biotechnology has been facilitated by the efforts the Utah Life Science Association—ULSA—and the State of Utah's Division of Business and Economic Development. I must commend the leadership of Governor Leavitt and Brian Moss of ULSA for their tireless efforts to promote the expansion of Utah's biotechnology sector.

Utah is certainly not alone in its activity in biotechnology. Nationally, there are over 1300 biotech companies. Collectively, these firms employ over 150,000 people. The biotechnology industry accounts for over $10 billion in research and discovery activities annually and revenues of over $18 billion.

Frankly, despite this impressive record of success, we have only scratched the surface of the future promise of this industry. About 90 biotechnology products have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration. More telling of the growing strength of this industry is the fact that over 350 biotechnology products are in late stage clinical trials. As these products move to the FDA approval stage, it seems foreseeable that in the next few years this research intensive sector, which recorded a net loss of $5 billion in 1998, will move into and stay in the black.

As Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and as a Senator with a long time interest in health care, I can assure my colleagues that I will do all in my power to ensure that our intellectual property laws are structured in a way to help assure that the promising work in biotechnology laboratories can be delivered to the bedside of American patients in a fair and expeditious manner. To meet the goal of delivering new therapies to the patients, we must also work to ensure that the FDA regulatory system promptly and consistently renders judgments based on science and that the laws affecting international trade do not result in unnecessary barriers to delivering these new breakthroughs worldwide.

In closing, I think it only fitting that the Senate has taken special note of the almost limitless frontier of biotechnology at the dawn of a new century and new millennium.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I rise today in commemoration of January 2000, as National Biotechnology Month. In November, the Senate passed a resolution designating January 2000 as National Biotechnology Month.

Biotechnology is changing the face of medicine. The United States leads the world in biotechnology innovation. Approximately 1,300 biotech companies in this country employ more than 150,000 people. Biotech companies are on the cutting edge—working to develop innovative life-saving drugs and vaccines. The industry spent nearly $10 billion on research and development in 1998 while revenues totaled $18.4 billion. Product sales topped $13 billion. The industry recorded a net loss of $5 billion.

I'm proud that Maryland is home to over 200 biotechnology companies. Companies in Maryland are working to map the human genome and develop drugs to treat Alzheimer's, Parkinson's Disease, and diabetes. Biotechnology has grown in Maryland, in part because Maryland is a place for great medical innovations. Maryland is home to the ''golden triangle''—private sector biotech companies, federal research laboratories, and universities. Maryland houses the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), other federal labs, outstanding academic research institutions such as Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland, and a growing number of biotech companies. The combination of these public and private sector entities creates a unique environment for research and new ideas to flourish.

Biotech companies will likely have an increasingly important role in providing medicines in the 21st century. The number of biotechnology drug approvals is increasing. More than 350 biotechnology medicines are already in late-stage clinical trials for heart ailments, cancer, and neurological diseases and infections. Some of these drugs will likely lead the way to improved health and well-being for millions of Americans. I salute the biotechnology companies in Maryland and across the country as they work to improve the lives of patients everywhere.

Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, I rise today on behalf of myself and my colleague Senator HARRY REID, and Senators ASHCROFT, BENNETT, BREAUX, CRAPO, GRASSLEY, MURRAY, ROBERTS, ROBB, and SARBANES to recognize January 2000 as National Biotechnology Month.

It is fitting that in the first month of this new year, at the start of a new century, we look to biotechnology as our greatest hope for the future.

Mapping the human genome, for example, is ahead of schedule and nearly complete. That achievement, begun 10 years ago, will rank as one of the most significant advances in health care by accelerating the biotechnology industry's discovery of new therapies and cures for our most life-threatening diseases.

Biotechnology not only is using genetic research to create new medicines, but also to improve agriculture, industrial manufacturing and environmental management.

The United States leads the world in biotechnology innovation. There are approximately 1,300 biotech companies in the United States, employing more than 150,000 people. The industry spent nearly $10 billion on research and development in 1998. Although revenues totaled $18.4 billion, the industry recorded a net loss of $5 billion because of the expensive nature of drug development.

In 1999, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved more than 20 biotechnology drugs, vaccines and new indications for existing medicines, pushing the number of marketed biotech drugs and vaccines to more than 90. Total FDA biotech approvals from 1982 through 1999 reach more than 140 when adding clearances for new indications of existing medicines. The vast majority of new biotech drugs were approved in the second half of the 1990s, demonstrating the biotechnology industry's surging proficiency at finding new medicines to treat our most life-threatening illnesses.

Biotechnology is revolutionizing every facet of medicine from diagnosis to treatment of all diseases. It is detailing life at the molecular level and someday will take much of the guesswork out of disease management and treatment. The implications for health care are as great as any milestone in medical history. We expect to see great strides early in this century.

A devastating disease that has stolen many of our loved ones, neighbors and friends is cancer. Biotechnology already has made significant strides in battling certain cancers. This is only the beginning.

The first biotechnology cancer medicines have been used with surgery, chemotherapy and radiation to enhance their effectiveness, lessen adverse effects and reduce chances of cancer recurrence.

Newer biotech cancer drugs target the underlying molecular causes of the disease. Biotech cancer treatments under development, such as vaccines that prevent abnormal cell growth, may make traditional treatments obsolete. In addition, gene therapy is being studied as a way to battle cancer by starving tumor cells to death.

Many biotech drugs are designed to treat our most devastating and intractable illnesses. In many cases these medicines are the first ever therapies for those diseases. For example, advancements in research have yielded first-of-a-kind drugs to treat multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis as well as cancer.

Other medicines in clinical trials block the start of the molecular cascade that triggers inflammation's tissue damaging effects in numerous disease states. In diseases, such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Huntington's, clinical trials are under way to test a variety of cell therapies that generate healthy neurons to replace deteriorated ones. Recent breakthroughs in stem cell research have prompted experts to predict cures within 10 years for some diseases, such as Type I (Juvenile) Diabetes and Parkinson's.

With more than 350 biotechnology medicines in late-stage clinical trials for illnesses, such as heart ailments, cancer, neurological diseases and infections, biotechnology innovation will be the foundation not only for improving our health and quality of life, but also lowering health care costs.

In the past 2 years Congress has increased funding for the National Institutes of Health's basic research programs by 15 percent per year. We are 40 percent of the way toward doubling the NIH budget. Health-care research, however, is not one-sided. The public funds we provide are for basic research. The private sector takes this basic science and then spends many times more than what the government has contributed to create new drugs and get them to patients. In today's world, biotechnology companies are among the greatest innovators and risk takers.

Biotechnology also is being used to improve agriculture, industrial manufacturing and environmental management. In manufacturing, the emphasis has shifted from the removal of toxic chemicals in production waste streams to replacement of those pollutants with biological processes that prevent the environment from being fouled. And because these biological processes are derived from renewable sources they also conserve a traditional energy resource. Industrial biotechnology companies are the innovators commercializing clean technologies and their progress is accelerating at an astonishing rate.

In agricultural biotechnology, crops on the market have been modified to protect them from insect damage thus reducing pesticide use. Biotech crops that are herbicide tolerant enable farmers to control weeds without damaging the crops. This allows farmers flexibility in weed management and promotes conservation tillage. Other biotech crops are protected against viral disease with the plant equivalent of a vaccine.

The number of acres worldwide planted with biotech crops soared from 4.3 million in 1996 to 100 million in 1999, of which 81 million acres were planted in the United States and Canada. Acceptance of these crops by farmers is one indication of the benefits they have for reducing farming costs and use of pesticides while increasing crop yields.

Biotech crops in development include foods that will offer increased levels of nutrients and vitamins. Benefits range from helping developing nations meet basic dietary requirements to creating disease-fighting and health-promoting foods.

Biotechnology is improving the lives of those in the U.S. and abroad. The designation of January 2000 as National Biotechnology Month is an indication to our constituents and their children that Congress recognizes the value and the promise of this technology. Biotechnology is a big word that means hope.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I am pleased to join my Senate colleagues in recognizing January as National Biotechnology Month. At the dawn of this new century, it is fitting for us to recognize the promise and potential of biotechnology.

With the mapping of the human genome, we are on the brink of critical advances in health care and medical discovery. These advances can become new cures and new treatments, new industrial products, and improved agricultural products. Biotechnology is changing medical practice from the way diseases are diagnosed to the way they are treated. By helping us to understand life at the molecular level, biotechnology can help eliminate the guesswork of disease management and treatment.

Biotechnology researchers have already made dramatic strides in confronting some of our most devastating and tragic diseases, from cancer to multiple sclerosis to Alzheimers. Recent breakthroughs in human embryonic stem cell research have given us cause to predict cures for diseases such as Parkinsons, juvenile diabetes and spinal cord injury.

As Ranking Member of the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations subcommittee, I have been a long-time advocate for health research. Last year, ARLEN SPECTER and I took the lead in providing the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with a $2.3 billion increase, the largest in NIH history, bringing the agency's overall budget to $17.9 billion. This year, we plan to introduce a resolution calling for a $2.7 billion increase—keeping our commitment to double NIH funding over five years.

NIH provides funding for the basic science that underpins the important research and development done by the biotechnology industry. This strong public-private partnership has made our country the world leader in the area of biotechnology innovation. There are approximately 1300 biotech companies in the United States, employing more than 150,000 people. In my own state of Iowa, we have approximately 180 companies, with more than

10,000 employees. In 1999, the Food and Drug Administration approved 22 biotechnology drugs, vaccines and new indications for existing medicines. We currently have more than 90 biotech drugs and vaccines on the U.S. market. And I know this is only the beginning.

In addition to its medical applications, biotechnology offers many exciting possibilities in the field of agriculture as well. Through biotechnology scientists are already developing new varieties and strains of plants and animals that will help to solve myriad problems and challenges relating to agriculture. The results of advances in agricultural biotechnology, impressive as they already are, represent merely the infancy of this promising scientific field.

The fact that over 800 million of our fellow citizens on this planet suffer from hunger or undernourishment points to the tremendous challenge we face to produce enough food for an ever growing population. As it has in the past, biotechnology will contribute tremendously to meeting that challenge, through increased yields and production, improved productive efficiency and enhanced suitability for difficult environments. Developing new plant varieties that are more tolerant of drought or soil salinity would help to increase food production in areas of the world where people are now going hungry.

Biotechnology also promises to help solve environmental challenges in agriculture. For example, plants that are inherently resistant to diseases or insects reduce the amount of pesticides that would otherwise be applied and enter the environment. Biotechnology can also help to reduce the amount of tillage that is needed, thereby reducing energy consumption and soil erosion.

Thus far biotechnology has been applied for the most part at the level of the farm, and has not been perceived by consumers as directly benefitting them to a significant degree. That is about to change. We are already seeing the development of new strains of plants that have specific traits to improve the nutritional quality of foods derived from them. Work at Iowa State University, for example, has developed soybeans that produce a soybean oil with lower saturated fat than conventional soybeans. We are not far from having rice that contains Vitamin A, which would alleviate a great deal of human suffering in developing countries.

Perhaps the most fascinating area of biotechnology involves the potential for developing new crops and livestock designed to produce a variety of raw materials and substances, likely to be of high value, for use in very specific applications, including medicine. We can produce from plants everything we now rely on petroleum to produce: energy and industrial raw materials for a wide range of products. I believe there will be real economic opportunities for farmers in producing these higher value crops and animals, and for rural communities in processing them.

To be sure, if agricultural biotechnology is to meet its potential, we must ensure that all questions about its safety for consumers and for the environment are fully answered. I believe that those questions can and will be answered satisfactorily, using the best sound science available.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, as January 2000, National Biotechnology Month, comes to a close, I want to recognize the importance of the biotechnology to the nation and to commend this industry for its innovations in disease diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

The United States is the leader in the biotechnology industry, and I am proud to say that California has the nation's largest concentration of health care technology companies. California, alone, is home to over 2,500 biomedical companies and employs over 241,000 people in health care technology and biomedical and clinical research fields. California's health care technology companies are producing leading edge products, for example, the first new therapy for cystic fibrosis in 30 years, Genetech; technology that enables doctors to do heart surgery without opening the chest cavity, Heartport; a cancer drug that is genetically engineered and stimulates the bone marrow to produce important white blood cells, Amgen; linear accelerators for treating cancer, Varian; and intraocular eye lenses, Allergan.

Biotechnology has enabled us to reduce hospital stays, to detect cancer and other life-threatening illnesses earlier in order to begin treatments earlier; to attack diseases cell by cell to eliminate unnecessary side effects, and to use vaccines to prevent abnormal cell growth. This is a critical time in biotechnology, as scientists continue to make strides in cellular and genetic research, and I am hopeful that this work will improve our health and well-being. I am confident that as this industry continues to grow, we will see treatments to greatly improve the lives of millions of Americans, and we will see cures to illnesses that we did not think were possible.

I commend the more than 150,000 employees of the biotech industry nationwide and join them in observing January as National Biotechnology Month.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I rise today in recognition of National Biotechnology Month. Biotechnology has produced drugs that hold the promise for many to live healthier lives. Biotechnology also holds enormous promise to make even more profound contributions to public health in the future.

For example, biotechnology strategies include the development of cancer vaccines as well as drugs that target specific cancer antigens to stimulate a patient's own immune system to kill tumor cells. There are so many other diseases that devastate families, like Alzheimers and heart disease, which biotechnology could be applied to successfully.

The Federal government has increased funding for basic scientific research. Private sector investments and small business development should also be encouraged. As remarkable as some of its achievement so far, biotechnology is only beginning. It is appropriate to begin the 21st Century with National Biotechnology Month because biotechnology holds so much promise for medicine and improving the quality of life.

SUPER BOWL CHAMPION, ST. LOUIS RAMS

Mr. FITZGERALD. Madam President, it is with great pride that I rise today with my distinguished colleagues to express my sincere congratulations to the Super Bowl XXXIV Champion St. Louis Rams. In the aftermath of a heart-stopping NFC division victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and an outstanding regular season record of 13 wins and 3 losses, the St. Louis Rams increased their intensity to win Super Bowl XXXIV, bringing home the most prized possession in the National Football League, the Lombardi Trophy. In an extraordinary effort and show of heart, the Rams countered the incredible second-half push by the Tennessee Titans in a game that more than lived up to its billing of ''Super'' and made history on Sunday, January 30, 2000, by pulling out a thrilling victory by the score of 23–16, becoming the Super Bowl XXXIV Champions.

This was Coach Dick Vermeil's third year as head coach of the Rams. Coach Vermeil previously led the Philadelphia Eagles to the Super Bowl in 1980, but had been away from coaching for almost 15 years. The passionate 63 year old coach showed he still had the stuff it takes to lead this team of stars to the championship. The fans of professional football have appropriately awarded Coach Vermeil by voting him the Staples Coach of the Year, the only NFL honor determined solely by a vote of the fans.

The three-year path to glory began slowly, with 9 wins and 23 losses over the previous two seasons, including just 4 victories last season, but the team turned it around this year. While the Rams were truly a team that played well together all year, this triumphant season can be attributed to the performance of several key players, including six players that were chosen to start in the Pro Bowl.

Kurt Warner, stepping in as the starter after Trent Green was injured in an early preseason game, enjoyed one of the best years ever for an NFL quarterback, throwing for 4,353 yards, 41 touchdowns and only 13 interceptions, a performance worthy of being awarded the NFL's Most Valuable Player and the Pro Bowl starting quarterback. This remarkable individual, in just his second season in the NFL, was