

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3062

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study of the effectiveness of silver-based biocides as an alternative treatment to preserve wood.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 4, 2002

Mr. CRAIG introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a study of the effectiveness of silver-based biocides as an alternative treatment to preserve wood.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Wood Preservation
5 Safety Act of 2002”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) the Environmental Protection Agency, the
9 chemical industry, and the home improvement indus-
10 try have negotiated a voluntary agreement to phase

1 out the use of arsenic-based preservatives in pres-
2 sure treated wood by December 31, 2003;

3 (2) in order to maintain the wood treatment in-
4 dustry in the United States, a suitable, safe alter-
5 native must be produced;

6 (3) silver has great potential as a viable, safe,
7 and cost-effective alternative as a wood preservative;

8 (4) silver has been used since ancient times as
9 a treatment to prevent the spread of bacteria;

10 (5) today, silver-based biocides are used in a
11 wide range of applications;

12 (6) in 2001, silver was commercially produced
13 in 12 States (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado,
14 Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico,
15 South Dakota, Utah, and Washington), and silver is
16 a readily available material; and

17 (7) the properties of silver biocide need to be
18 further studied to determine the effectiveness of its
19 use as a wood preservative.

20 **SEC. 3. STUDY OF SILVER IS A BIOCIDES.**

21 The Secretary of Agriculture shall direct the Forest
22 Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, to conduct
23 a study on of the effectiveness of silver-based biocides as
24 a wood preservation treatment.

1 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums

3 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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