

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I rise today to propose an amendment to allow the renewal of grazing permits on Forest Service lands until the completion of the required analyses under the National Environmental Protection Act [NEPA].

The management of Federal lands is the hub of multiple-use strategies. Sound stewardship and range management practices represent the foundation needed to protect Federal lands and ensure that they are maintained for future generations. Multiple-use practices by the ranchers themselves greatly enhance the condition of Federal lands. Keep in mind that many generations of ranch families have made a living, raised their families, and maintained these lands for future generations. The sustainability of their livelihoods is linked to the sustainability of the land. They are the true environmentalists.

Despite their previous good stewardship, ranch families now risk being punished for the Forest Service's inability to complete the studies required by NEPA in time for the beginning of the 1996 grazing season. Over 120 Black Hills' grazing permits must be reissued by the Forest Service before the 1996 grazing season, which begins in March 1996. In accordance with NEPA, before the permits can be reissued the Forest Service must analyze each allotment for effects on endangered species, and environmental, cultural, historical, and water resources.

In this time of downsizing, already 4,000 jobs at the Forest Service have been eliminated. Yet despite this reduction in human resources, the Forest Service must now take on sweeping studies of every single ranking allotment—not just in South Dakota—but throughout the Western States.

I met with Chief Jack Ward Thomas of the Forest Service last week. He said that in order to complete these analyses as close on time as possible, he will have to concentrate both his financial and human resources on completing the NEPA studies. Chief Thomas said it himself: "This means that every other function of the Forest Service in the West will suffer as a result."

The timber industry will suffer, as well as the ongoing Black Hills forest management plan activity. In addition, because Forest Service personnel and resources will be spread so thinly, the risk of appeals—of both timber sales and grazing permits—is even greater.

I recognize that due to recent court action, the Forest Service is between a rock and a hard place. My amendment will solve the Forest Service's dilemma. It allows the permits to be renewed until the completion of the NEPA analyses.

I would like to note that my amendment is very similar to an amendment offered yesterday by my colleague from South Dakota. However, my colleague's amendment was included as a part of the Regulatory Transition Act which could be delayed in conference for some time. The very fact that I am

introducing a similar amendment again today attests to the gravity of the situation, and my commitment to passing a resolution to this problem into law.

Unfortunately, Mr. President, we do not have much time. It is imperative that we resolve this issue quickly, for the sake of the ranchers and loggers in South Dakota—and across the West.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment.

I will now yield to my colleague who has taken a great deal of leadership on this issue, the Senator from Wyoming.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNETT). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from South Dakota. He has joined with many of us to deal with this issue. It is one of these issues that has a timeliness problem.

What we really have, as the Senator has pointed out, is during the past several months there has been some kind of court ruling that requires an individual NEPA investigation for every grazing permit. There are about 4,500 grazing permits from the Forest Service. About 700 of them will expire this year, the end of 1995. And, under the new regulation, driven by the court procedure, these NEPA requirements would have to be completed before these grazing permits can be extended.

The Forest Service has said there is no way they can do that within that length of time. The result would be that ranches that depend upon grazing permits for their summer grass for cattle and sheep would simply be out of business.

This does not change the requirement, it simply provides for some time. It says basically that permits cannot be refused because of the lack of the NEPA regulation. In other words, it says until the NEPA regulation is finished the permits can be renewed. That is really what it is all about.

By the way, there is plenty of protection. It is not a matter of protection. There are now NEPA requirements on the forest plain, at the forest level. It is already there. In fact you can make an argument it is not needed. We are not making that argument. We are simply making the argument that the process of NEPA can continue but that there is not enough time to do it without injuring people who have a business of grazing on public lands.

This would simply extend the time for that to happen. It is timely and needs to be done so people can plan for next year, can plan to turn their cattle out, can have loans and continue their business as they always have.

Mr. President, I urge the amendment. Let us put it in the bill so we can take away this threat to the economy of the West.

I thank the Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. EXON addressed the Chair.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I want to congratulate my friend and colleague

from South Dakota, and my colleague and friend from Wyoming. I just made some pronouncements about the new Secretary of Agriculture about adjoining States. Here we are, adjoining States again. I am here with my senior colleague from South Dakota, Senator PRESSLER, and my new colleague from the western neighbor of the State of Nebraska.

I congratulate both of them for the amendment that has been offered. The matter has been cleared on this side and we are prepared to go ahead and agree to the amendment, if that is the will of the chairman of the Commerce Committee?

Mr. PRESSLER. I thank my friend from Nebraska. I regret he is leaving this Chamber. I have previously said a few kind words about him, both here and in the press. But I thank him very much for his great service here in this body.

Mr. President, I urge the adoption of this amendment.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. If there be no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 425) to amendment No. 420 was agreed to.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. PRESSLER. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now return to executive session to the nomination of Secretary Glickman.

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

NOMINATION OF DANIEL ROBERT GLICKMAN, OF KANSAS, TO BE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

The Senate continued with the consideration of the nomination.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I would like to say a few words about Dan Glickman. I have known him since 1974, when we came to the U.S. House of Representatives together. I have known him and his wife. We have traveled to different events together over the years. We have voted together in the House of Representatives. We have served together on a number of caucuses. I had observed his work over the years.

I certainly shall be voting with a great deal of pride for Dan Glickman for Secretary of Agriculture.

I am especially interested in the international aspects of agriculture. I believe in the next few years what we do in international agricultural trade will be just as important to farm prices as some of our domestic programs.

The business of the Secretary of Agriculture is the business of food for

peace. It is the business of international trade. It is the business of selling our products abroad, but also using food in foreign policy situations. The Secretary of Agriculture can be a driving force for what happens in farm prices and for the entire agricultural industry in our country in the next few years.

The Secretary of Agriculture also is a very important force domestically because it is his Department that sets the standards for food—what people are supposed to eat. The Food Stamp Program also is administered by the Department of Agriculture to provide food assistance for the poor. These are just some of a whole array of domestic issues handled by the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Department of Agriculture is a vast, huge agency. I first became acquainted with it when I was a young 4H member growing up on a farm near Humboldt, SD. There is a great deal of controversy about what the Department should do about reorganizing, and making it more efficient. I hope Dan Glickman will heed the call of the American people for less Government and more action, so to speak, in terms of the bureaucracy. It seems every time we cut spending around here we are told it is going to cut children's programs or food stamps or it is going to close a local office in one of our States. We never hear anything about shutting down any of the bureaucracy here in Washington, DC.

We need to have a more efficient Department of Agriculture. I am hoping Dan Glickman will do just that. I am prepared to help him and I wish him well.

Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I would like to yield back all the time on both sides regarding the nomination of Mr. Glickman. And I am playing the role of both leader and Democratic leader at the same time, I am told.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Senate resumed legislative session.

MEASURE READ FOR THE FIRST TIME

Mr. PRESSLER. I would inquire of the Chair if H.R. 849 has arrived from the House of Representatives?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes, it has.

Mr. PRESSLER. Therefore, I will ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 849) to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act to reinstate an exemption for certain bona fide hiring and retirement plans applicable to State and local fire-fighters and law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

Mr. PRESSLER. I now ask for its second reading.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will remain at the desk and have its next reading on the next legislative day.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 39

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

To the Congress of the United States:

This Nation's future depends on strong public and private support for science and technology. My Administration's decision to make sound investments in science and technology even as the Federal Government cuts other spending is premised on three basic assumptions:

- Technology is the engine of economic growth.
- Scientific knowledge is the key to the future.
- Responsible government advances science and technology.

The Congress and the American people can find evidence of the Administration's dedication to responsible government support for science and technology in our defense and economic policies as well as our management of the science and technology enterprise. We have decreased the Federal deficit, helped to create millions of new jobs, and improved the tax treatment of small businesses and of investments in research and development. Hemispheric and global trade agreements as

well as relaxation of outdated export controls have opened huge export markets to America's high-tech industries. My *National Security Strategy of Engagement and Enlargement* (February 1995) depends on farsighted and efficient science and technology investments. Our foreign policy and security interests are also supported by mutually beneficial international cooperation in science and technology.

We have consistently endorsed technology policies to increase prosperity and enhance environmental quality. In *Technology for America's Economic Growth* (February 1993) and *Technology for a Sustainable Future* (July 1994) this Administration conveyed to the American people our plans for public/private partnerships to improve the business environment, enhance access to quality education and training, support development of information infrastructure, ensure continued excellence in health care, and strengthen America's global competitiveness.

Streamlined government based on strong partnerships—within the government, with the private sector, and among nations—is a hallmark of the Clinton/Gore Administration. The "virtual department" I created by establishing the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) has cut bureaucratic red tape and produced a historic first: an integrated research and development budget that focuses on national goals. The NSTC has also produced large savings by enabling agencies to coordinate their efforts, divide tasks, and share resources.

My Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) provides critical links to industry and academia. Their oversight of NSTC activities, such as development of strategies for the management and disposition of fissile materials, promises to improve the Federal effort. So, too, do the forums and workshops that have drawn in thousands of experts and stakeholders to help develop priorities in areas as diverse as fundamental science; environmental technology; and health, safety; and food research.

I am also very proud of the steps we have taken to improve international cooperation in science and technology. Through the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission we have used science and technology cooperation to ease the Russians' transition to democracy and a market economy. We have received valuable new technology and cultivated a crucial partner in global affairs through Russian participation in the international space station. We have used the Megasciences Forum of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other international forums to explore ways to share the increasing costs of cutting-edge research while maintaining our position of world leadership. Bilateral science and technology cooperation with other nations, including advanced industrial economies such as