

NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM AND NATIONAL SPEED LIMIT

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, this week, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee reported out a bill to designate the National Highway System or NHS. I want to congratulate the chairman of the committee on his leadership.

While some provisions in the bill cause me some concern, there is one feature that I would like to highlight today.

The National Highway System authorization bill repeals the national maximum speed limit. This is a commonsense feature. Repeal removes the threat of Federal highway dollar sanctions if a State does not post its roads at a 55- or 65-mile-per-hour speed limit.

The current standard of 55 or 65 miles per hour may make sense in some States—especially in urban, congested areas. However, for big, sparsely populated States like Montana, it may make sense to change that standard. And there is no need for Washington to decide for us.

Mr. President, the point is that the States should have the ability to set their own speed limits. The citizens in each State should have a say in these decisions without the threat of a Federal highway fund sanction.

I spend a lot of time walking the roads in Montana. I have walked from Livingston to Bozeman along I-90; down Route 93 from Missoula to Hamilton; up from Butte along the road to Missoula; and this summer I hope to spend a lot of time on the Hi-Line.

And I can tell you first-hand, those are easy roads to walk and they are easy roads to drive. They do not get a lot of traffic. People stop and talk. I can wave to every other driver as he or she goes by. And we should not treat these roads as if they have bumper-to-bumper New York traffic.

We made at least a start by letting States raise the limit to 65 on rural roads. But a Montana driver could drive very safely on many of our roads at a higher speed. Montana should be able to set its own speed limit without threatening our highway money.

So, Mr. President, among all the things the NHS bill does—tucked in amongst the big construction projects, new technology, increased competitiveness, and new jobs—is something that is pretty small, but which does a lot to make life easier and Government more sensible.

It is just plain, simple common sense. Thank you, Mr. President.

INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 1075

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. CHAFEE], for himself and Mr. BAUCUS, proposes an amendment numbered 1075.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

Delete from page 34, line 5 through page 35, line 2 and replace with the following:

“(3)(A) Except as provided in paragraph (4), any State that imported more than 750,000 tons of out-of-State municipal solid waste in 1993 may establish a limit under this paragraph on the amount of out-of-State municipal solid waste received for disposal at landfills and incinerators in the importing State as follows:

“(i) In calendar year 1996, 95 percent of the amount exported to the State in calendar year 1993.

“(ii) In calendar years 1997 through 2002, 95 percent of the amount exported to the State in the previous year.

“(iii) In calendar year 2003, and each succeeding year, the limit shall be 65 percent of the amount exported in 1993.

“(iv) No exporting State shall be required under this subparagraph to reduce its exports to any importing State below the proportionate amount established herein.”.

On page 36, line 12, add “and the Governor of the importing State may only apply subparagraph (A) or (B) but not both” after “facilities”.

On page 38, line 2, after “year” insert “, and the amount of waste that was received pursuant to host community agreements or permits authorizing receipt of out-of-State municipal solid waste”.

On page 38, line 3, delete “July 1” and insert “May 1”.

On page 38, delete from line 17 through page 39, line 6 and replace with the following:

“(C) LIST.—The Administrator shall publish a list of importing States and the out-of-State municipal solid waste received from each State at landfills or incinerators not covered by host community agreements or permits authorizing receipt of out-of-State municipal solid waste.”.

On page 35, line 20, strike “800,000”, replace with “750,000”.

On page 35, line 22, strike “600,000”, replace with “550,000”.

On page 52, strike line 6, insert the following: “sources outside the State.”.

“(g) IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT.—Any State may adopt such laws and regulations, not inconsistent with this section, as are necessary to implement and enforce this section, including provisions for penalties.”.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, this managers’ amendment that I have sent to the desk is the result of laborious and lengthy negotiations involving the distinguished Senator from Indiana, who spent so much time in connection with this legislation, and the distinguished Senator from New York, and many other Senators who have an interest in this legislation.

So I urge its adoption.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, we have examined the amendment. It is my understanding that various Senators, particularly the Senator from Pennsylvania, as well as the delegation from Illinois, who had some questions in the last final moments, have now found their objections are no longer such as

to prevent the Senate from passing this bill. They no longer have those objections.

With those assurances, Mr. President, I urge the passage of the bill.

I want to particularly thank the Senator from Indiana, Senator COATS. Senator COATS labored in the vineyards in this issue for years and years, and I highly commend him for his efforts to limit out-of-State garbage from coming into his State of Indiana. I also want to compliment the chairman of the committee.

Last year, we almost passed this bill—within an eyelash of passing it. I compliment the chairman of the committee for helping make passage a virtual reality here today.

Many other Senators worked very hard trying to get the right balance, basically, between those States who want to limit trash coming into their States and those States that still do export a lot of trash.

Now, the exporting States, particularly New York and New Jersey, I think are to be commended for taking significant action to reduce the amount of exports to those States to put less pressure on importing States.

Nevertheless, I think it is very important that the importing States—including my State of Montana—have the ability to say no to out-of-State trash. It is very important we have that.

I compliment, again, the Senator from Indiana as well as the Senator from New York [Mr. D’AMATO]. I urge the adoption of this amendment.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, the Senator from Montana commended me for laboring in the vineyards for so many years. It did not seem like I was in the vineyards—more like the town dump.

I want to thank the chairman, Senator CHAFEE, for his work this year with me and with the coalition in fashioning this legislation, in particular this amendment that is being sent to the desk. It is the culmination of a lot of years, of a lot of work, by a lot of people.

As the Senator from Montana said, it is critical that States that are unwilling recipients of out-of-State waste have a say as to whether or not they receive this waste.

The Senator from Montana has worked tirelessly to help Members accomplish this effort. I would say to the Senator from Rhode Island, what a difference a year makes. We are here, together, working together on fashioning what I think is very appropriate legislation. I want to thank him, along with Senator SMITH, Senator D’AMATO, and others, for helping to put this amendment together. I urge its adoption.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, again I would like to say that the reason we have this legislation is really because of the steady, persistent tenacity of the Senator from Indiana.

I can assure the world that everybody in Indiana should feel very, very grateful for the work that Senator COATS has done in connection with this legislation. I can also assert that when the definition of "bulldog" is given, there is no one the tenacity shown by a bulldog more appropriately fits than Senator COATS. He has pressed this issue to its fullest. I congratulate him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment of the Senator from Rhode Island.

So, the amendment (No. 1075) was agreed to.

Mr. BAUCUS. I move to reconsider the vote.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the distinguished Senator from Montana for his patience and help in all these measures; not only this one we are dealing with right now, but the whole series of them. His suggestions have been excellent. I want to express my personal appreciation, but I know that everyone in the Senate is indebted to him for his hard work in seeing we get these agreements.

AMENDMENT NO. 1076

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. CHAFEE], for Mr. D'AMATO, proposes an amendment numbered 1076.

The amendment is as follows:

Page 64, line 2, insert the following as letter (f) and reletter subsequent paragraphs accordingly—

(f) STATE-AUTHORIZED SERVICES AND LOCAL PLAN ADOPTION.—A political subdivision of a State may exercise flow control authority for municipal solid waste and for recyclable material voluntarily relinquished by the owner or generator of the material that is generated within its jurisdiction if, prior to May 15, 1994, the political subdivision—

(1) had been authorized by State statute which specifically named the political subdivision to exercise flow control authority and had implemented the authority through a law, ordinance, regulation, contract, or other legally binding provision; and

(2) had adopted a local solid waste management plan pursuant to State statute and was required by State statute to adopt such plan in order to submit a complete permit application to construct a new solid waste management facility proposed in such plan; and

(3) had presented for sale revenue or general obligation bond to provide for the site selection, permitting, or acquisition for construction of new facilities identified and proposed in its local solid waste management plan; and

(4) includes a municipality or municipalities required by State law to adopt a local law or ordinance to require that solid waste which has been left for collection shall be separated into recyclable, reusable or other components for which economic markets exist; and

(5) is in a State that has aggressively pursued closure of substandard municipal landfills, both by regulatory action and under statute designed to protect deep flow recharge areas in countries where potable water supplies are derived from sole source aquifers.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, we examined this amendment and we urge its adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

So, the amendment (No. 1076) was agreed to.

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

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1077

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Indiana [Mr. COATS], proposes an amendment numbered 1077.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent further reading be dispensed.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 52, between lines 10 and 11 insert the following:

"SEC. 102. NEEDS DETERMINATION.

"The Governor of a State may accept, deny or modify an application for a municipal solid waste management facility permit if—

"(1) it is done in a manner that is not inconsistent with the provisions of this section;

"(2) a State law enacted in 1990 and a regulation adopted by the governor in 1991 specifically requires the permit applicant to demonstrate that there is a local or regional need within the state for the facility; and

"(3) the permit applicant fails to demonstrate that there is a local or regional need within the State for the facility."

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, this amendment is thoroughly agreeable to the Members on this side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

So, the amendment (No. 1077) was agreed to.

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

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JOHNSTON. 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. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be allowed to proceed for 5 minutes as if in morning business.

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

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN MOSCOW AND KIEV

Mr. JOHNSTON. Mr. President, in my judgment, there have been a number of premature pronouncements about the outcome of the President's trips to Moscow and Kiev that I believe are one-sided and unfair. Many important achievements have been overlooked and ignored, and important foundations have been laid for success on more contentious issues in the future.

It is far too early to know what the ultimate outcome will be on the very contentious issue of the proposed Russian sale of nuclear reactors to Iran. The President began the process of engaging the Russians seriously on the serious global security implications of such a sale by sharing information with the Russians which they will not assess and debate. The Russians have not closed the door to reconsideration of this issue; the President kept it open through persuasive argument which we hope, when fully evaluated by the Russian side, will lead to the Russians decided to cancel this sale.

Lost in the coverage of the reactor sale was an important victory in the resolution of a number of outstanding issues regarding Russia's closing down arms sales to Iran. The Vice President and Chernomyrdin will draw up the final agreement on this very important issue, which will permit Russia to join in with other States as a founding member of the post-COCOM regime. Key sticking points on biological weapons cooperation, notably the Russian agreement to begin visits to biological weapons factories on August 1, 1995, were resolved and the United States and Russia also issued a joint statement on principles on theater missile defense systems and their relationship to the ABM Treaty. Yeltsin also reaffirmed strong support for START II ratification.

In large part because of the President's personal effort, Russia recommitted herself to being part of the evolving European security landscape. Yeltsin agreed to drop his opposition to moving forward with Russia's Partnership for Peace Membership and agreed to proceed with implementation of its program before the end of this month. Yeltsin also indicated agreement with plans to launch an expanded Russia-NATO dialog at the May NAC.

These are all significant developments, developments which will give us a more secure and more peaceful world.

My own view is that the President's decision not just to visit Moscow but