

S. 1505 is a responsible bill and it represents sound public policy. The risk assessment and risk management provisions of the legislation rest on the foundation already built by the Office of Pipeline Safety. The bill also builds on initiatives undertaken at OPS to focus its regulatory and programmatic agenda on the most important public safety and environmental protection standards.

Aside from the risk assessment and risk management provisions, S. 1505 contains many other noteworthy provisions. Although I cannot mention each one individually, I do want to touch on one particular issue.

States currently represent more than 90 percent of the State/Federal inspector work force that oversees pipelines nationwide. For more than two decades, OPS has leveraged its resources, thereby increasing its pipeline inspection capabilities, by reimbursing States for up to fifty percent of their program costs. This leverage is a key link in the pipeline safety network. I am pleased that despite severe budget pressures, S. 1505 maintains this important State/Federal cost-sharing partnership.

Mr. President, I again want to thank all those involved in bringing S. 1505 to the floor today. I want to again acknowledge the role the majority leader played. S. 1505's development and evolution was difficult, but the end result is a bill worthy of enactment.

Also, I would like to cite the staff who did a great deal of work:

Charlotte Casey, Tom Hohenthanner, and Paddy Link of the majority staff of the Commerce Committee; Carl Biersack with Senator LOTT; Clyde Hart, Carl Bentzel and Jim Drewry of the minority staff of the Commerce Committee; and Chris McLean with Senator EXON.

Mr. President, I have completed my statement. On this side of the aisle, we are ready to proceed. At this time, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. EXON. Will the Senator withhold that? Mr. President, has he offered a manager's amendment? We have it here now. It is his amendment. You must have it. We approve it as drafted. Therefore, I suggest if the Senator will go ahead and offer that, we can probably pass the bill.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to send modifications to the committee substitute to the desk and ask that the committee substitute, as modified, be considered as original text for purpose of further amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The committee amendment is so modified.

The modifications are as follows:

On page 48, line 4, strike "and".

On page 48, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

"(J) an opportunity for public comment in the approval process; and

On page 44, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

(g) MAPPING.—Section 60102(c) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

"(4) PROMOTING PUBLIC AWARENESS.—

"(A) Not later than one year after the date of enactment of Accountable Pipeline Safety and Accountability Act of 1996, and annually thereafter, the owner or operator of each interstate gas pipeline facility shall provide to the governing body of each municipality in which the interstate gas pipeline facility is located, a map identifying the location of such facility; and

"(B)(i) Not later than June 1, 1998, the Secretary shall survey and assess the public education programs under section 60116 and the public safety programs under section 60102(c) and determine their effectiveness and applicability as components of a model program. In particular, the survey shall include the methods by which operators notify residents of the location of the facility and its right of way, public information regarding existing One-Call programs, and appropriate procedures to be followed by residents of affected municipalities in the event of accidents involving interstate gas pipeline facilities.

"(ii) Not later than one year after the survey and assessment are completed, the Secretary shall institute a rulemaking to determine the most effective public safety and education program components and promulgate if appropriate, standards implementing those components on a nationwide basis. In the event that the Secretary finds that promulgation of such standards are not appropriate, the Secretary shall report to Congress the reasons for that finding."

(h) REMOTE CONTROL.—Section 60102(j) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

"(3) REMOTELY CONTROLLED VALVES.—(A) Not later than June 1, 1998, the Secretary shall survey and assess the effectiveness of remotely controlled valves to shut off the flow of natural gas in the event of a rupture of an interstate natural gas pipeline facility and shall make a determination about whether the use of remotely controlled valves is technically and economically feasible and would reduce risks associated with a rupture of an interstate natural gas pipeline facility.

"(B) Not later than one year after the survey and assessment are completed, if the Secretary has determined that the use of remotely controlled valves is technically and economically feasible and would reduce risks associated with a rupture of an interstate natural gas pipeline facility, the Secretary shall prescribe standards under which an operator of an interstate natural gas pipeline facility must use a remotely controlled valve. These standards shall include but not be limited to requirements for high-density population areas."

On page 38, beginning in line 1, strike "In prescribing a standard referred to in paragraph (2)," and inserts "In conducting a risk assessment referred to in subparagraph (D) and (E) of paragraph (2)."

On page 38, line 22, insert "any" after "submitt".

On page 40, line 15, strike "this subsection" and insert "subparagraphs (D) and (E) of paragraph (2)".

On page 41, line 13, strike "improved regulatory decision making" and insert "affected regulatory decision making and pipeline safety".

On page 45, strike lines 1 and 2 and insert the following:

"(B) to evaluate the safety and cost-effectiveness of the program."

Mr. EXON. Have we adopted the manager's amendment?

Mr. PRESSLER. Yes.

Mr. EXON. It was my hope, Mr. President, that we were ready to pass the bill. It was my hope that we would pass the bill in wrap-up last night. That was not possible. It was my hope that we would wrap it up and pass it earlier today at noon. That was not possible.

It was my hope, Mr. President, that we could wrap it up now. I am advised that is not possible, and the responsibility at this time is on this side of the aisle, I say to my friends on the other side of the aisle. The measure is open to amendment, and if anyone ever wonders why it takes so long to get anything done in the U.S. Senate, after endless hours of consultation, double consultation, this is a typical case in point. Therefore, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I join that request for a quorum call, but I just would like to join in those remarks 100 percent. I might also take this opportunity to say that I am in the process of placing a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD relative to what a great Senator Senator EXON has been in the Senate and what a great colleague he has been to work with.

I share his frustration at this moment. He is a lucky man in that he is retiring from this body, so he will not have these frustrations in the future. I do not think they are going to change very much, but I am equally frustrated. We are ready to pass this bill on this side of the aisle. Whenever you give me the nod, we will go.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I thank my friend from South Dakota for those kind remarks. I simply say to him that I was misinformed. I will check into this. I will see who in the world it is that wants to make an amendment to this measure but is not here to do it in an orderly fashion. I will report back to the Senate and to my friend from South Dakota as soon as I am able to get that information, if I can get the information.

Mr. PRESSLER. I suggest 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 the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Jim Sartucci, a Coast Guard Fellow with the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, be granted floor privileges today and during Senate consideration of H.R. 1350, an act to amend the Merchant Marine Act.

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

Mr. PRESSLER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAFEE. 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. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I might proceed for 5 minutes as in morning business.

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

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. HOCKEY TEAM

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I will take a moment to pay tribute to the U.S. hockey team. As many of my colleagues may know, Team USA won the World Cup of Hockey last Saturday night with a decisive 5-2 victory over Canada.

This was an extraordinary tournament. All the traditional hockey powers—countries such as Canada, Russia, and Sweden—sent their very best players to this competition. Unlike the Olympics, in which the teams have been made up principally of amateur players, these players were strictly professionals. It was the best in the world against the best in the world.

At the outset, the Americans were the underdogs. In the end, however, not only did we win, but we dominated play throughout the tournament.

As an American, I was thrilled to read about Team USA's outstanding performance. But I am particularly proud of this team's accomplishments as a Rhode Islander.

The team was assembled by Lou Lamoriello—a native of Rhode Island and a former head coach of the Providence College hockey team. Lou is now the president and general manager of the New Jersey Devils.

The team's assistant general manager was Jack Ferreira, a graduate of LaSalle Academy in Providence, and a former assistant coach for Brown University.

The team was coached by Ron Wilson. He grew up in East Providence and played hockey for Providence College. He's now the head coach of the Anaheim Mighty Ducks.

Defenseman Mathieu Schneider is a graduate of Mount Saint Charles High School in Woonsocket, RI.

The athletic trainer, Peter Demers, a long-time trainer for the Los Angeles Kings, is originally from Pawtucket.

To top it off, the team trained at Providence College's Schneider Arena.

So you can see that this team had a distinct Rhode Island flavor to it. And so, I join with all Rhode Islanders and Americans in congratulating the U.S. hockey team for their marvelous achievement.

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

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

The Senator from West Virginia is recognized.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, has the Pastore rule expired?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It has not expired.

Mr. BYRD. It has not? Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order for not to exceed 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no objection, the Senator is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Chair.

SENATOR DAVID PRYOR

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, Senator DAVID PRYOR is retiring from the Senate at the end of this session after giving 18 years of exceptional service to the people of Arkansas and to the Nation. His quiet, thoughtful manner, his unfailing good humor, his wise counsel, and his natural leadership will be missed here.

I think of that quotation from Edmund Burke, the great Irish statesman, orator, and writer, who observed in his "Reflections on the Revolution in France":

Because half a dozen grasshoppers under a fern make the field ring with their importunate chink, whilst thousands of great cattle, reposed beneath the shadow of the British oak, chew the cud and are silent, pray do not imagine that those who make the noise are the only inhabitants of the field . . .

The Congress is an open field for serenading grasshoppers, who make a lot of noise unmatched by significant accomplishment. Senator PRYOR, on the other hand, shuns the limelight of the Senate stage to devote his energies to quietly and tenaciously improving living conditions for American citizens, particularly the elderly.

Senator PRYOR began his political career in Arkansas investigating abuses in nursing homes, even working undercover as an orderly to gather firsthand evidence. As the Chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging for 6 years, Senator PRYOR has led the crusade to protect America's elderly and to oversee Medicare. On the health care front, Senator PRYOR labored valiantly to craft a workable solution to the massive health care reform effort in the last Congress.

His concern for the elderly has led Senator PRYOR to become an expert on, and a vocal critic of, the prices pharmaceutical companies charge for prescription drugs. And he has matched his criticism with action. Senator PRYOR was instrumental in requiring drug companies to charge the same prices to state-federal Medicaid programs for the poor as they do to other bulk-drug purchasers.

During this Congress, Senator PRYOR has led a fight to close a loophole in

the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade legislation that creates a windfall for name-brand pharmaceutical companies by protecting them from generic competition under GATT. This loophole, a creation of error rather than of intent, means that consumers, and especially pensioners dependent on prescriptions that eat up a large percentage of their fixed incomes, are paying more for their prescriptions than otherwise would have been the case. I am proud to have supported Senator PRYOR's tenacious and repeated efforts to remedy this problem. Although unsuccessful to date, Senator PRYOR's leadership on this important issue merits commendation.

On the Finance Committee, Senator PRYOR has consistently worked to improve the notoriously painful interactions between the IRS and individual taxpayers. On the Agriculture Committee, he has championed issues important to the hardworking farmers laboring in the cotton and rice fields of Arkansas. This search for a balm to smooth the rough edges of life, to offer oil to calm the troubled waters of public exchange, is characteristic of the gentle Senator from Arkansas.

In the behind-the-scenes life of the Senate, Senator PRYOR has worked to encourage civility and order. He has provided leadership as the Secretary of the Democratic Conference in the 102nd and 103rd Congresses. He built the consensus that over a decade ago introduced family-friendly procedural changes, some of which are still in effect today, that restored some discipline to the way this body conducts its business. The time limits on votes and the recess schedule that we still attempt to follow are the lasting fruits of his labors.

Senator PRYOR has not limited his concern for family time to Senators alone. He cast a critical vote to override President Bush's veto of the Family and Medical Leave Act in the 102nd Congress, helping to provide a safety net for family members to look after a newborn, or a sick or dying relative, without risking the loss of their job.

Another way in which Senator PRYOR has enriched the life of the Senate and demonstrated his sincere devotion to young people is his continuing consideration for the Senate pages. These young people, whom we see every day on the floor and busily running our errands throughout the Capitol complex, have come from around the Nation to learn from us, as well as to assist us. Whether from large cities or rural areas, few, if any, of these young people are ever fully prepared for the demands and challenges of life on Capitol Hill, as many of us are not, until they have plunged into the midst of it. Having been a page himself, Senator PRYOR knows firsthand that sometimes the learning part of this heady experience can be swamped under the working part.

But he makes the time and takes the time to talk with the pages—and that