

the land, except that any highly erodible cropland shall be subject to the requirements of a conservation plan, including, if required by the Secretary, the conversion of the land to less intensive uses. In no case shall total expenditures of funding from the Commodity Credit Corporation exceed a total of \$35,000,000 over the first 3 and subsequent fiscal years.

JOHNSTON AMENDMENT NO. 3456

Mr. LEAHY (for Mr. JOHNSTON, for himself, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. BREAUX, and Mr. BUMPERS) proposed an amendment to amendment No. 3184 proposed by Mr. LEAHY to the bill S. 1541, supra, as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V of the amendment No. 3184 offered by Mr. LEAHY, insert:

Section 101 of the Agricultural Act of 1949 is amended by adding a subsection (e) that reads as follows:

“(e) RICE.—The Secretary shall make available to producers of each crop of rice on a farm price support at a level that is not less than 50%, or more than 90% of the parity price for rice as the Secretary determines will not result in increasing stocks of rice to the Commodity Credit Corporation.”

PRYOR AMENDMENT NO. 3457

Mr. LEAHY (for Mr. PRYOR) proposed an amendment to amendment No. 3184 proposed by Mr. LEAHY to the bill S. 1541, supra; as follows:

On page 3-16 of amendment No. 3184, at line 1, after “payments” include the word “education.”

On page 3-16, line 9, after “payments,” include the word “education.”

On page 3-16, line 13, after “payments,” and “education.”

BOXER AMENDMENT NO. 3458

Mr. LEAHY (for Mrs. BOXER) proposed an amendment to amendment No. 3184 proposed by Mr. LEAHY to the bill S. 1541, supra; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

It is the sense of the Senate that the Department of Agriculture should continue to make methyl bromide alternate research and extension activities a high priority of the Department.

Provided further, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, producer and processor organizations, environmental organizations, and State agencies continue their dialogue on the risks and benefits of extending the 2001 phaseout deadline.

CONRAD AMENDMENT NO. 3459

Mr. LEAHY (for Mr. CONRAD) proposed an amendment to amendment No. 3184 proposed by Mr. LEAHY to the bill S. 1541, supra; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the title relating to conservation, insert the following:

SEC. . ABANDONMENT OF CONVERTED WETLANDS.

Section 1222 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3822) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(k) ABANDONMENT OF CONVERTED WETLANDS.—The Secretary shall not determine that a prior converted or cropped wetland is abandoned, and therefore that the wetland is subject to this subtitle, on the basis that a

producer has not planted an agricultural crop on the prior converted or cropped wetland after the date of enactment of this subsection, so long as any use of the wetland thereafter is limited to agricultural purposes.”

CONRAD (AND HATFIELD) AMENDMENT NO. 3460

Mr. LEAHY (for Mr. CONRAD, for himself and Mr. HATFIELD) proposed an amendment to amendment No. 3184 proposed by Mr. LEAHY to the bill S. 1541, supra; as follows:

Beginning on page 7-86, strike line 11 and all that follows through page 7-87, line 11, and insert the following:

“(3) RURAL BUSINESS AND COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT.—The rural business and cooperative development category shall include funds made available for—

“(A) rural business opportunity grants provided under section 306(a)(11)(A);

“(B) business and industry guaranteed loans provided under section 310B(a)(1); and

“(C) rural business enterprise grants and rural educational network grants provided under section 310B(c).

“(d) OTHER PROGRAMS.—Subject to subsection (e), in addition to any other appropriated amounts, the Secretary may transfer amounts allocated for a State for any of the 3 function categories for a fiscal year under subsection (c) to—

“(1) mutual and self-help housing grants provided under section 523 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490c);

“(2) rural rental housing loans for existing housing provided under section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1485);

“(3) rural cooperative development grants provided under section 310B(e); and

“(4) grants to broadcasting systems provided under section 310B(f).

CONRAD AMENDMENT NO. 3461

Mr. LEAHY (for Mr. CONRAD) proposed an amendment to amendment No. 3184 proposed by Mr. LEAHY to the bill S. 1541, supra; as follows:

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)) is amended in subparagraph (F)—

(i) by striking “exceed 15 percent” and all that follows through “Code” and inserting the following: “exceed—

“(i) 25 percent of the median acreage of the farms or ranches, as the case may be, in the county in which the farm or ranch operations of the applicant are located, as reported in the most recent census of agriculture taken under section 142 of title 13, United States Code.

CRAIG (AND BAUCUS) AMENDMENT NO. 3462

Mr. LUGAR (for Mr. CRAIG, for himself and Mr. BAUCUS) proposed an amendment to amendment No. 3184 proposed by Mr. LEAHY to the bill S. 1541, supra; as follows:

After section 857, insert the following:

SEC. 858. LABELING OF DOMESTIC AND IMPORTED LAMB AND MUTTON.

Section 7 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 607) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) LAMB AND MUTTON—

“(1) STANDARDS.—The Secretary, consistent with U.S. international obligations, shall establish standards for the labeling of sheep

carcasses, parts of carcasses, meat, and meat food products as ‘lamb’ and ‘mutton’.

“(2) METHOD.—The standards under paragraph (1) shall be based on the use of the break or spool joint method to differentiate lamb from mutton by the degree of calcification of bone to reflect maturity.”.

THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 1996

ROCKEFELLER (AND BURNS) AMENDMENT NO. 3463

Mr. DOLE (for Mr. ROCKEFELLER, for himself and Mr. BURNS) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 2196) to amend the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 with respect to inventions made under cooperative research and development agreements, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 3, line 24, insert “pre-negotiated” before “field”.

On page 5, beginning on line 4, strike “if the Government finds” and insert “in exceptional circumstances and only if the Government determines”.

On page 5, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

This determination is subject to administrative appeal and judicial review under section 203(2) of title 35, United States Code.

On page 13, strike lines 10 through 17 and insert the following:

Section 11(i) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3710(i)) is amended by inserting “loan, lease, or” before “give”.

Beginning with line 23 on page 21, strike through line 3 on page 22 and insert the following:

“(13) to coordinate Federal, State, and local technical standards activities and conformity assessment activities, with private sector technical standards activities and conformity assessment activities, with the goal of eliminating unnecessary duplication and complexity in the development and promulgation of conformity assessment requirements and measures.”.

On page 22, beginning on line 5, strike “by January 1, 1996,” and insert “within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.”.

Beginning with line 8 on page 22, strike through line 5 on page 23 and insert the following:

(d) UTILIZATION OF CONSENSUS TECHNICAL STANDARDS BY FEDERAL AGENCIES; REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, all Federal agencies and departments shall use technical standards that are developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies, using such technical standards as a means to carry out policy objectives or activities determined by the agencies and departments.

(2) CONSULTATION; PARTICIPATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1) of this subsection, Federal agencies and departments shall consult with voluntary, private sector, consensus standards bodies and shall, when such participation is in the public interest and is compatible with agency and departmental missions, authorities, priorities, and budget resources, participate with such bodies in the development of technical standards.

(3) EXCEPTION.—If compliance with paragraph (1) of this subsection is inconsistent with applicable law or otherwise impractical, a Federal agency or department may elect to use technical standards that are not

developed or adopted by voluntary consensus standards bodies if the head of each such agency or department transmits to the Office of Management and Budget an explanation of the reasons for using such standards. Each year, beginning with fiscal year 1997, the Office of Management and Budget shall transmit to Congress and its committees a report summarizing all explanations received in the preceding year under this paragraph.

(4) DEFINITION OF TECHNICAL STANDARDS.—As used in this subsection, the term "technical standards" means performance-based or design-specific technical specifications and related management systems practices.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Wednesday, February 7, at 9:30 a.m. for a hearing on recommendations by Members of Congress relating to Federal employment.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 7, 1996, at 10 a.m.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION TAX CREDIT OF 1995

• Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I strongly support S. 743, the Commercial Revitalization Tax Credit Act of 1995 [CRTC] and today I join several of my colleagues in cosponsoring this bill. I commend Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON for her sponsorship of this legislation designed to encourage business investment in economically distressed areas. I also want to commend my Pennsylvania colleague, Representative PHIL ENGLISH who has introduced this same legislation in the House. I believe this measure will help to create jobs and expand economic activity, in addition to improving the physical appearance and property values in these areas.

Earlier in this session, I introduced legislation to replace our current cumbersome Tax Code with a simple and efficient 20-percent flat tax. My legislation, the Flat Tax Act of 1995 (S. 488) will bring tremendous economic growth to all areas of our country, and especially our cities by freeing up capital and lowering interest rates. While I continue to support the principles and necessity of a flat tax, I believe that in the interim we must proceed with measures such as the Commercial

Revitalization Tax Credit Act to bring economic growth to our cities immediately.

This legislation provides a targeted, limited tax credit to businesses to help defray their costs of construction, expansion, and renovation in urban areas. The CRTC would be another tool to aid localities and States in boosting jobs and business investment in America's most troubled neighborhoods. If enacted, estimates indicate the CRTC could attract over \$7 billion in private sector investment to these communities, create thousands of jobs, and generate new tax revenue.

America's urban areas serve an important role as centers of commerce, industry, education, health care, and culture. Yet these urban centers, particularly in the inner cities, also have special needs. As a Philadelphia resident, I have first-hand knowledge of the growing problems that plague our cities. I have long supported a variety of programs to assist our cities such as increased funding for community development block grants, extension of the low income housing tax credit, and legislation to establish enterprise and empowerment zones. I have also promoted legislation to provide targeted tax incentives for investing in minority- or women-owned small businesses.

This issue of urban renewal is not new to me. In the 104th Congress, I introduced the New Urban Agenda Act of 1995—S. 17—which would redress urban decay and decline without massive Federal outlays. S. 17 embodies many of the proposals of Philadelphia Mayor Edward G. Rendell. The bill is intended to stimulate the economies of our urban centers. Increased economic growth resulting in increased employment is the key to reversing current urban economic conditions. Specifically, my legislation would: First, require certain Federal and foreign aid purchases to be made from businesses operating with urban zones; second, favor distressed cities for the location or relocation of Federal facilities; third, expand the historic rehabilitation tax credit, expand the use of commercial industrial development bonds, and modify the arbitrage rebate rules concerning municipal bond interest; fourth, study streamlining Federal housing programs into block-grant form, and encourage community building by locating original tenants in new units on old sites; and fifth, ease environmental restrictions for governments, speed up the remediation process, and establish a pilot powerplant for the benefit of city residents and energy intensive industry.

Mr. President, I believe the CRTC will complement my legislation because it would encourage new construction and rehabilitation of structures in distressed areas. The CRTC would provide businesses with the option of taking either a one time 20-percent tax credit against the cost of new construction or rehabilitation, or a tax credit of

5 percent a year for 10 years. The credit is intended to help encourage businesses locate to economically distressed areas.

The original concept of enterprise zones provided for broad based incentives for capital formation. Current these zones primarily encourage wage-based tax, and other investment incentives to locate within the zone. There is no incentive for a business within the zone to expand so that larger numbers of employees can be hired. That is a gap which the CRTC fills.

I believe the CRTC will be an efficient and productive program. The tax credit will only be available after private sector investment has been made and the competed project is generating income. This bill authorizes a maximum of \$1.5 billion in tax credits over a 5-year period. The credits will be allocated to each State according to a formula which takes into account the number of localities where over half the people earn less than 60 percent of the area's median income. Local governments, not the Federal Government, will determine their priority projects and forward them to the States which will allocate the tax credits according to an evaluation system which the States themselves establish.

Furthermore, communities which have already been designated as economic revitalization areas by the Federal, State, and local governments would now become eligible for the CRTC Program. This is particularly good news for Philadelphia, PA, and Camden, NJ, which were jointly chosen as 1 of 6 urban empowerment zones by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The cities of Harrisburg and Pittsburgh, and Allegheny County in my home State were also designated as enterprise communities and will benefit from S. 743.

Last June, the U.S. Conference of Mayors adopted the attached resolution sponsored by Edward Rendell, the mayor of Philadelphia, which endorsed the commercial revitalization tax credit. Other organizations which have endorsed this bill include the National Association of Counties, the American Institute of Architects, the National Association of Industrial Office Properties, the American Planning Association, the American Enterprise Zone Association, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the International Downtown Association, the National Congress of Community Economic Development, and the American Society of Landscape Architects.

We must address any very serious issues—jobs, teenage pregnancy, welfare reform—if we are to save our cities. It may well be that many in America have given up on our cities. That is a stark statement, but it is one which I believe may be true, but, I have not given up. And I believe there are others in this body on both sides of the aisle who have not done so. There must be new strategies for dealing with the problems of urban America. The Commercial Tax Revitalization Tax Credit