

a final rule entitled "Rules and Regulations Under the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act: Notice of Final Rulemaking", received on May 16, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2670. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trade Regulation Rule on Misbranding and Deception as to Leather Content of Waist Belts", received on May 16, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2671. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the prohibition of retaining Pacific cod in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska, received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2672. A communication from the Program Management Officer of the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the American lobster fishery that clarifies the enforcement of regulations governing this fishery in the exclusive economic zone (RIN 0648-XX61), received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2673. A communication from the Program Management Officer of the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the annual management measures and a technical amendment for the ocean salmon fisheries off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California (RIN 0648-AI35), received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2674. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning the future of the Interstate Commerce Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2675. A communication from the Director of the Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of three final rules concerning inseason closures in the Gulf of Alaska and in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2676. A communication from the Program Management Officer of the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the implementation of approved measures contained in Amendment Five to the Fishery Management Plan for the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries, received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2677. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the Coast Guard's adopting of the special local regulations for the Boating Safety Parade, sponsored by the Charleston Power Squadron (RIN 2115-AE46), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2678. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the establishment of the date and time for this year's Regatta and amends the permanent regulation, received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2679. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the Coast Guard's establishing of a safety zone for the Fire Island Lighthouse Fireworks Display to be held on Great South Bay, Fire Island, NY, received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2680. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the special local regulations that are being adopted for the Key West Super Boat Race sponsored by Super Boat Racing, Inc. (RIN 2115-AE46), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2681. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the Coast Guard's establishment of a permanent special local regulation for the World's Fastest Lobster Boat Race in the waters of Moosabec Reach, Jonesport, ME (RIN 2115-AE46), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2682. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the Coast Guard's revising of the regulations governing the operations of the CSX railroad bridge at mile eighteen over the Saginaw River in Saginaw, Michigan (RIN 2115-AE47), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2683. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the minor adjustments of a previous rule about the procedures and methodology for determining Great Lakes pilotage rates (RIN 2105-AC21), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2684. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the requirements of Office Management and Budget Circular A-128, audits of state and local governments (RIN 2105-AC44), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2685. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the prohibition of retaining Pacific cod in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska, received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2686. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the removal of the Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Act regulations from the Code of Federal Regulations (RIN 0648-AI42), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2687. A communication from the Director of the Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule relative to regulations for special exception permits: Take, import, and export marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act (RIN 0648-AD11), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2689. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of final rule relative to lifesaving equipment (RIN 2115-AB72), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2688. A communication from the Director of the Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule relative to regulations for special exception permits: Take, import, and export marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act (RIN 0648-AD11), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2690. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule relative to Rotocraft regulatory changes based on European joint aviation requirements (RIN2120-AF65), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2691. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of three final rules relative to the establishment of Class E airspace (RIN 2120-AA66), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2692. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of five final rules relative to Airworthiness Standards and Directives (RIN 2120-AB36 and RIN 2120-AA64), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. KASSEBAUM, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1578. A bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1997 through 2002, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-275).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BREAU:

S. 1778. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on indolenine; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1779. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Bis (4-amino-3-methylcyclohexyl)-methane; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. EXON (for himself and Mr. KERREY):

S. 1780. A bill to revise the boundary of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRAIG:

S. 1781. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide for duty free treatment for epoxide resins; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1782. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide for duty free treatment for certain injection molding machines; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1783. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide for duty free treatment for certain semi-manufactured forms of gold; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 1784. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. EXON (for himself and Mr. KERREY):

S. 1780. A bill to revise the boundary of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

NORTH PLATTE WILDLIFE REFUGE LEGISLATION

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation along with Senator KERREY to revise the boundary of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge in western Nebraska. This bill, which passed the House on April 23 of this year, would remove 2,470 acres of land from the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge.

This bill was created through the joint efforts of the community leaders of western Nebraska and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is indeed a great example of how government works best when Federal, State and local governments work together.

The refuge, located just outside Scottsbluff, NE, was established in the early part of this century as a preserve and breeding ground for native waterfowl. The refuge is also home to a Bureau of Reclamation irrigation project. Over the years the refuge has been managed jointly by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation. The Fish and Wildlife Service managed the wildlife aspects of the refuge and the Bureau managed the recreation. In 1986, the Bureau turned over management of the recreational aspects to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In 1990, a directive was issued that required the Fish and Wildlife Service to bring all areas of the refuge, including Lake Minatare, into compliance with Federal regulations. It soon became apparent to local residents that this directive essentially would prohibit all recreational and residential use of Lake Minatare, uses that had been commonplace under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation.

There was no doubt that this directive would have a significant impact on local tourism and the economy of the Scottsbluff area. Likewise, interest in maintaining the recreational use of the lake was very strong among local citi-

zens. At the urging of local leaders, the Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to perform an environmental assessment of the refuge. At the end of their assessment, the Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that the best course of action would be to end their jurisdiction over portions of the refuge that were no longer as effective as wildlife habitat as they once were and were really better suited for recreational use.

I am pleased to report, Mr. President, that this bill has the overwhelming support of the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

I might also mention that my district office in Scottsbluff received numerous letters from local citizens in support of this effort. I am proud of the work of the citizens of western Nebraska on this issue and of the cooperation they received from the Fish and Wildlife Service. This effort is indeed a fine example of how the Federal Government and local citizens can and should work together to manage our Nation's wildlife areas to the benefit of everyone involved.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to quickly support this important legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that additional material be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

PRESS RELEASE

WASHINGTON, DC—U.S. Senators Jim Exon (D-NE) and Bob Kerrey (D-NE) today introduced a bill that will allow continued recreational use of Lake Minatare near Scottsbluff. The bill would revise the boundary of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge in western Nebraska so that the lake can continue to be used by boaters, campers, and fishermen.

The legislation is needed because of a directive issued in 1990 that requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to bring 2,500 acres of the lake and surrounding area into compliance with Federal rules governing the use of wildlife refuges. The directive would declare motorized boats off limits and prohibit the use of cabins near the lake.

"This is an example of how we can work together to change a federal rule that doesn't make any sense," Exon and Kerrey said. "There is no doubt that the original directive would have endangered local tourism and damaged the economy of the Panhandle. This bill will ensure both the protection of wildlife in the refuge and the continued use of Lake Minatare as an important recreation area for Nebraska residents and visitors."

The legislation was created through the joint efforts of community leaders, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state's congressional delegation. Exon and Kerrey said many residents have called their western Nebraska senate office in support of the bill. Representative Bill Barrett introduced identical legislation in the House that passed last month. It is supported by both the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I rise to the floor today to support the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge boundary revision. The proposed bill would remove about 2,470 acres of land from

the refuge and transfer it to the Bureau of Reclamation. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that the land, establish as a refuge early in this century, no longer serves the goals of the national refuge system. Although the area is no longer suitable as a wildlife refuge, it does offer citizens of Nebraska a valuable recreation area. Thousands of Nebraska's citizens enjoy both water and land recreation in the area. The transfer of the land to the Bureau of Reclamation will allow the Bureau to lease the land to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission who will manage the property. The Department of the Interior strongly supports this legislation.

I commend both Federal and State officials for working closely with the local community to achieve this coordinated agreement. It is a fine example of the Federal Government, the State government, and the local community working together to improve the quality and accessibility public areas.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 1784. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT COMPANY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1996

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I introduce the Small Business Investment Company Improvement Act of 1996. Since 1958, firms licensed under the Small Business Investment Company Program have made venture capital investment funds available to small businesses when traditional lending sources, such as banks and Wall Street investment firms, would not meet their funding needs.

The Small Business Investment Company Improvement Act of 1996 would take some significant strides to enhance the safety and soundness of the SBIC program. For the past year, the Committee on Small Business has conducted a series of hearings on the SBIC program. Government and private sector witnesses have testified on ways to improve the program and build on the legislation passed by the Congress in 1992 that created the Participating Security Program.

This bill incorporates portions of the recommendations from the SBIC Re-invention Council, operating SBIC's and Specialized SBIC's, and the President's fiscal year 1997 budget request. The bill would reduce the risk of SBIC defaults by putting in place statutory standards governing the licensing and leveraging of SBIC's. In addition, it imposes important safeguards governing the operating practices of SBIC's by requiring frequent and meaningful examinations of SBIC licensees and their investments. This bill would also require that all SBIC's invest in smaller enterprises, which are small businesses at the lower end of the eligible size standards. Lastly, the bill would increase fees paid by SBIC's to help lower