

the relationships of this nation with foreign countries to spare many nonconsenting women and young girls the inhumane and dangerous procedures associated with the custom or ritual of female genital mutilation or imprisonment for refusing such mutilation: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States of America, and the Congress of the United States of America to utilize the influence of the United States in international relations to end the custom or ritual of female genital mutilation in those countries where such procedures are presently practiced upon individuals who choose not to undergo such procedures and to grant political asylum to individuals who flee their homelands to escape the custom or ritual; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States of America, to the presiding officers of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-651. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

"Whereas, the United States Congress, by its authority to regulate commerce among the states, has repeatedly preempted state laws, including those relating to health, welfare, transportation, communications, banking, the environment, and civil justice, reducing the ability of state legislatures to be responsible to their constituents; and

"Whereas, more than half of all federal laws preempting states have been enacted by congress since 1969, intensifying an erosion of state power that leaves an essential part of our constitutional structure—federalism—standing precariously; and

"Whereas, the United States Constitution anticipates that our American federalism will allow differences among state laws, expecting people to seek change through their own legislatures without federal legislators representing other states preempting states to impose national laws; and

"Whereas, constitutional tension, necessary to protect liberty, arises from the fact that federal law is "the supreme Law of the Land", while in contrast powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved to the states or to the people; and that tension can exist only when states are not preempted and thus remain credible powers in the federal system; and

"WHEREAS, less federal preemption means states can act as laboratories of democracy, seeking novel social and economic policies without risk to the nation; and

"WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures has stated well the dynamic nature of federalism and the need for freedom of the states to act in areas reserved to them, noting that federalism anticipates diversity, that the unity of the states does not anticipate uniformity, and that every preemptive law diminishes other expressions of self-government and should be approved only where compelling need and broad consensus exist; and

"WHEREAS, S. 1629, the proposed Tenth Amendment Enforcement Act of 1996, is designed to create mechanisms for careful consideration of proposals that would preempt states in areas historically within their purview through procedural mechanisms in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, namely:

"In the Legislative branch by requiring a statement of constitutional authority and an expression of the intent to preempt states,

"In the Executive branch, by curbing agencies that may preempt beyond their legislative authority, and

"In the Judicial branch, by codifying judicial deference to state laws where the congress is not clear in its intent to preempt: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to enact the proposed Tenth Amendment Enforcement Act of 1996, does further urge and request the Louisiana congressional delegation to co-sponsor the legislation, and does urge and request the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States, to sign the legislation into law when it is presented to him for signature; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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. GRAHAM:

S. 1933. A bill to authorize a certificate of documentation for certain vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 1934. A bill to provide for an exchange of lands with the city of Greeley, CO, and the Water Supply & Storage Co. to eliminate private inholdings in wilderness areas, to cause instream flows to be created above a wild and scenic river, to eliminate potential development on private inholdings within the forest boundary, to reduce the need for future water reservoirs, to reduce the number of Federal land use authorizations, and to improve the security of the water of the city and the company, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BRADLEY:

S. 1935. A bill to provide for improved information collection and dissemination by the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1936. A bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. BURNS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, and Mr. BOND):

S. Res. 277. A resolution to express the sense of the Senate that, to ensure continuation of a competitive free-market system in the cattle and beef markets, the Secretary of Agriculture and Attorney General should use existing legal authorities to monitor commerce and practices in the cattle and beef markets for potential antitrust violations, the Secretary of Agriculture should increase reporting practices regarding domestic commerce in the beef and cattle markets (includ-

ing exports and imports), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BRADLEY:

S. 1935. A bill to provide for improved information collection and dissemination by the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

THE PUBLIC TRUST AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Public Trust and Environmental Accountability Act to improve collection, retrieval, and dissemination of vital environmental data needed for community information and disaster response.

For the first time, under the Public Trust and Environmental Accountability Act, firefighters, plant neighbors, local governments, and the general public will have easy access to complete data on a plant's permit compliance and plant operation. Not only will the public be able to discover whether their local facility has had past environmental violations but they will also be able to research that company's compliance history throughout the United States using just one consolidated file, available by computer search.

For example, last year, when the Napp Technologies plant in Lodi, NJ, exploded, the community surrounding the plant had little knowledge of what went on within the plant gates. If the Public Trust and Environmental Accountability Act had been in effect, local citizens would have known: what chemicals were stored onsite; what permits were held by the plant; what violations had occurred; whether there had been any accidents or releases of chemicals; and, when the plant was last inspected.

Currently, data collected by the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] is scattered and fragmented across the Agency or left in files at the State level. Instead of centralizing and coordinating all data by plant or location, much of EPA's information is kept in numerous duplicative files in the Agency's separate program offices where it is divided arbitrarily by the type of pollutant under regulation such as air, water, or solid waste. Thus using EPA data to build a complete compliance profile of a particular plant is both time consuming and unnecessarily difficult.

However, my bill streamlines this unwieldy system by directing EPA to enhance access, encourage public use, and improve management of public information that it has collected under the Agency's many environmental statutes, pollution prevention initiatives and environmental permitting requirements. Under the act, EPA would create standard formats for information

collection and improve the coordination of data which it has received from its various units and from other sources such as State agencies. The Act would also provide the public with greater computer access to EPA data bases.

No additional data would be required from the private sector. In fact, the current reporting burden on industry could be reduced once streamlined data collection was in place. The bill also complements new EPA initiatives aimed at consolidating permit requirements and eliminating paperwork.

This bill is an example of how we can use public power to help communities protect themselves through access to information rather than through additional programs or more bureaucracy.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1935

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Public Trust and Environmental Accountability Act".

SEC. 2. definitions.

In this Act:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Agency.

(2) **AGENCY.**—The term "Agency" means the Environmental Protection Agency.

SEC. 3. IMPROVED INFORMATION COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION.

(a) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to enhance public access and encourage use of information collected by the Agency;

(2) to improve the management of information resources; and

(3) to assist Agency enforcement, pollution prevention, and multimedia permitting and reporting initiatives.

(b) **PLAN.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall develop a plan to implement policies, programs, and methods for integrating and making publicly available information pertaining to the environment and public health policy concerns within the jurisdiction of the Agency.

(c) **MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.**—The policies, programs, and methods under subsection (b) shall provide for—

(1) creation of standard information formats for collection, integration, retrieval, storage, retention, and dissemination of information;

(2) improved coordination of information collection and information management to integrate separate information resources, including the development and implementation of common company, facility, industrial sector, geographic, and chemical identifiers and such other information as the Administrator determines to be appropriate;

(3) a system for indexing, locating, and obtaining information maintained by the Agency concerning parent companies, facilities, chemicals, and the regulatory status of entities subject to oversight by the Agency;

(4) ready accessibility of, and dissemination of, publicly available information generated by or submitted to the Agency, including public accessibility by computer telecommunication and other means; and

(5) universal availability of electronic reporting for all environmental reporting requirements established under laws administered by the Agency directly or through delegations to States, territories, and Indian tribes.

(d) **COORDINATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator shall coordinate the Agency's information collection and dissemination activities with the activities of other Federal, State, and local agencies to reduce unnecessary burdens and promote greater integration of information.

(2) **OTHER INFORMATION.**—When necessary to support the mission of the Agency, the Administrator may provide for the integration and dissemination of publicly available information not collected by the Agency.

(e) **LIMITATION.**—Nothing in this section shall affect the duty of the Agency to maintain the confidentiality of trade secrets, confidential business information, or information that is subject to a rule of court or court order requiring maintenance of confidentiality.

(f) **PRICING.**—The Administrator may set charges for the provision of information under this section in accordance with the pricing policies of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the "Paperwork Reduction Act").

(g) **DISSEMINATION POLICIES.**—Dissemination policies of the Agency shall include fee reductions, fee waivers, and other support services to encourage public use of information maintained by the Agency.

(h) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall produce and make available reports that summarize the information that has been made available under this section.

SEC. 4. SOURCE REDUCTION AWARD PROGRAM.

The Administrator shall establish an annual award program to recognize companies that operate outstanding or innovative source reduction programs.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1892

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] and the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 1892, a bill to reward States for collecting Medicaid funds expended on tobacco-related illnesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1898

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Illinois [Mr. SIMON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1898, a bill to protect the genetic privacy of individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1917

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM], and the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. FRIST] were added as cosponsors of S. 1917, a bill to authorize the State of Michigan to implement the demonstration project known as "To Strengthen Michigan Families."

S. 1928

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1928, A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate tax in-

centives for exporting jobs outside of the United States, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 277—RELATIVE TO THE BEEF AND CATTLE MARKETS

Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. BURNS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. BOND, and Mr. KEMPTHORNE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. RES. 277

Whereas historically high cattle supplies, low cattle prices, and high feed costs have brought hardship to United States cattle producers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF ANTITRUST RELATED ISSUES.

It is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Attorney General should—

(1) increase monitoring of mergers and acquisitions in the fed and nonfed beef packing sectors for potential antitrust violations; and

(2) investigate possible barriers to entry or expansion in the beef packing sector.

SEC. 2. COLLECTION AND REPORTING FUNCTIONS.

It is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Agriculture should—

(1) to the extent practicable on a regional basis, improve the collection, timeliness, and reporting of—

(A) contract, formula, and live cash cattle;

(B) captive supply cattle, including a definitional change from every 14 to every 7 days;

(C) boxed beef prices;

(D) price differentials within Department of Agriculture quality grades;

(E) all beef and live cattle exports and imports; and

(F) weekly fed cattle value matrix; and

(2) cooperate with the industry to improve collection and reporting of—

(A) retail scanner data to develop a retail price series that reflects both volume and price of all beef sold at retail; and

(B) price and quantity data for United States beef sold for consumption in the away-from-home market.

SEC. 3. SELF-REGULATION WITHIN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) in the case of cattle that are not sold on a live cash basis, a "grid" pricing structure should be utilized to determine prices and spreads through competitive bidding not more than 7 days prior to shipment; and

(2) agricultural lenders should consider the total asset portfolio, instead of merely the cash flow, of an entity participating in the cattle and beef markets when evaluating loan performance.

SEC. 4. INTERNATIONAL BARRIERS TO TRADE.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture should continue to identify and seek to eliminate unfair trade barriers and subsidies affecting United States beef markets;

(2) the United States and Canadian Governments should expeditiously negotiate the elimination of animal health barriers that are not based on sound science; and

(3) the import ban on beef from cattle treated with approved growth hormones imposed by the European Union should be terminated.

SEC. 5. EMERGENCY LOAN GUARANTEES.

It is the sense of the Senate that funding for emergency loan guarantees, which assist