

Board. The Secretary or the Secretary's designee or designees shall not be required to appear before the Board or any element of the Board for more than twelve working days per calendar year.

"(b) PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS.—

"(1) RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES.—Upon the request of the Chairman or a majority of the members of the Board, and subject to existing law, the Secretary (or any contractor of the Secretary) shall provide the Board with such records, files, papers, data, or information that is generally available to the public as may be necessary to respond to any inquiry of the Board under this title.

"(2) EXTENT.—Subject to existing law, information obtainable under paragraph (1) may include drafts of products and documentation of work in progress.

"SEC. 605. COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Board shall be paid at the rate of pay payable for level III of the Executive Schedule for each day (including travel time) such member is engaged in the work of the Board.

"(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member of the Board may receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as is permitted under sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

"SEC. 606. STAFF.

"(a) CLERICAL STAFF.—

"(1) AUTHORITY OF CHAIRMAN.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Chairman may appoint and fix the compensation of such clerical staff as may be necessary to discharge the responsibilities of the Board.

"(2) PROVISIONS OF TITLE 5.—Clerical staff shall be appointed subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 3 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

"(b) PROFESSIONAL STAFF.—

"(1) AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIRMAN.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Chairman may appoint and fix the compensation of such professional staff as may be necessary to discharge the responsibilities of the Board.

"(2) NUMBER.—Not more than 10 professional staff members may be appointed under this subsection.

"(3) TITLE 5.—Professional staff members may be appointed without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and may be paid without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, except that no individual so appointed may receive pay in excess of the annual rate of basic pay payable for GS-18 of the General Schedule.

"SEC. 607. SUPPORT SERVICES.

"(a) GENERAL SERVICES.—To the extent permitted by law and requested by the Chairman, the Administrator of General Services shall provide the Board with necessary administrative services, facilities, and support on a reimbursable basis.

"(b) ACCOUNTING, RESEARCH, AND TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT SERVICES.—The Comptroller General and the Librarian of Congress shall, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of funds, provide the Board with such facilities, support, funds and services including staff, as may be necessary for the effective performance of the functions of the Board.

"(c) ADDITIONAL SUPPORT.—Upon the request of the Chairman, the Board may secure directly from the head of any department or agency of the United States information necessary to enable it to carry out this title.

"(d) MAILS.—The Board may use the United States mails in the same manner and

under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States.

"(e) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—Subject to such rules as may be prescribed by the Board, the Chairman may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5 of the United States Code, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the daily equivalent of the maximum annual rate of basic pay payable for GS-18 of the General Schedule.

"SEC. 608. REPORT.

"The Board shall report not less than 2 times per year to Congress and the Secretary its findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

"SEC. 609. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"There are authorized to be appropriated for expenditures such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this title.

"SEC. 610. TERMINATION OF THE BOARD.

"The Board shall cease to exist not later than one year after the date on which the Secretary begins disposal of spent nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste in the repository.

"TITLE VII—MANAGEMENT REFORM

"SEC. 701. MANAGEMENT REFORM INITIATIVES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is directed to take actions as necessary to improve the management of the civilian radioactive waste management program to ensure that the program is operated, to the maximum extent practicable, in like manner as a private business.

"(b) AUDITS.—

"(1) STANDARD.—The Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, its contractors, and subcontractors at all tiers, shall conduct, or have conducted, audits and examinations of their operations in accordance with the usual and customary practices of private corporations engaged in large nuclear construction projects consistent with its role in the program.

"(2) TIME.—The management practices and performances of the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management shall be audited every 5 years by an independent management consulting firm with significant experience in similar audits of private corporations engaged in large nuclear construction projects. The first such audit shall be conducted 5 years after the enactment of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1996.

"(3) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall annually make an audit of the Office, in accordance with such regulations as the Comptroller General may prescribe. The Comptroller General shall have access to such books, records, accounts, and other materials of the Office as the Comptroller General determines to be necessary for the preparation of such audit. The Comptroller General shall submit to the Congress a report on the results of each audit conducted under this section.

"(4) TIME.—No audit contemplated by this subsection shall take longer than 30 days to conduct. An audit report shall be issued in final form no longer than 60 days after the audit is commenced.

"(5) PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.—All audit reports shall be public documents and available to any individual upon request.

"(d) VALUE ENGINEERING.—The Secretary shall create a value engineering function within the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management that reports directly to the Director, which shall carry out value engineering functions in accordance with the usual and customary practices of private corporations engaged in large nuclear construction projects.

"(e) SITE CHARACTERIZATION.—The Secretary shall employ, on an on-going basis, integrated performance modeling to identify appropriate parameters for the remaining site characterization effort and to eliminate studies of parameters that are shown not to affect long-term repository performance.

"SEC. 702. REPORTING.

"(a) INITIAL REPORT.—Within 180 days of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall report to Congress on its planned actions for implementing the provisions of this Act, including the development of the Integrated Waste Management System. Such report shall include—

"(1) an analysis of the Secretary's progress in meeting its statutory and contractual obligation to accept title to, possession of, and delivery of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste beginning no later than November 30, 1999, and in accordance with the acceptance schedule;

"(2) a detailed schedule and timeline showing each action that the Secretary intends to take to meet the Secretary's obligations under this Act and the contracts;

"(3) a detailed description of the Secretary's contingency plans in the event that the Secretary is unable to meet the planned schedule and timeline; and

"(4) an analysis by the Secretary of its funding needs for fiscal years 1997 through 2001.

"(b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—On each anniversary of the submittal of the report required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall make annual reports to the Congress for the purpose of updating the information contained in such report. The annual reports shall be brief and shall notify the Congress of:

"(1) any modifications to the Secretary's schedule and timeline for meeting its obligations under this Act;

"(2) the reasons for such modifications, and the status of the implementation of any of the Secretary's contingency plans; and

"(3) the Secretary's analysis of its funding needs for the ensuing 5 fiscal years.

"SEC. 703. EFFECTIVE DATE.

"This Act shall become effective—days after enactment."

THE FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

PRESSLER AMENDMENT NO. 4986

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. PRESSLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (H.R. 3540) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 198, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following:

SENSE OF SENATE ON DELIVERY BY CHINA OF CRUISE MISSILES TO IRAN

SEC. 580. (a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) On February 22, 1996, the Director of Central Intelligence informed the Senate that the Government of the People's Republic of China had delivered cruise missiles to Iran.

(2) On June 19, 1996, the Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs informed Congress that the Department of State had evidence of Chinese-produced cruise missiles in Iran.

(3) On at least three occasions in 1996, including July 15, 1996, the Commander of the United States Fifth Fleet has pointed to the threat posed by Chinese-produced cruise missiles to the 15,000 United States sailors and marines stationed in the Persian Gulf region.

(4) Section 1605 of the Iran-Iraq Arms Non-Proliferation Act of 1992 (title XVI of Public Law 102-484; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) both requires and authorizes the President to impose sanctions against any foreign government that delivers cruise missiles to Iran.

(b) SENSE OF SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Government of the People's Republic of China should immediately halt the delivery of cruise missiles and other advanced conventional weapons to Iran; and

(2) the President should enforce all appropriate sanctions under United States law with respect to the delivery by that government of cruise missiles to Iran.

THE AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

LEAHY (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 4987

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. GREGG, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. SMITH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. KERRY) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 3603) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:
SEC. ____ NORTHERN FOREST STEWARDSHIP.

(a) FINDINGS.—With respect to the Northern Forest in the States of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont, Congress finds that—

(1) the current land ownership and management patterns have served the people and forests of the region well; public policies relating to the Northern Forest should seek to reinforce rather than replace the patterns of ownership and use that have characterized lands in the Northern Forest for decades;

(2) people have a right to participate in decisions that affect them;

(3) the rights of private property owners must be respected;

(4) natural systems must be sustained over the long term, including air, soil, water, and the diversity of plant and animal species;

(5) the history and culture of the Northern Forest and the connections between people and the land must be respected;

(6) States should work in partnership with local governments and the Federal Government;

(7) differences among the 4 Northern Forest States must be recognized;

(8) people must appreciate that the Northern Forest has values that are important beyond the boundaries of the Northern Forest;

(9) because public funds are scarce, the greatest public benefit must be secured for any additional investment;

(10) proposals must be judged by their long-term benefits, looking at least 50 years into the future;

(11) programs and regulations in existence on the date of enactment of this Act should be continually evaluated, built upon, and improved before new ones are created;

(12) the actions described in this section are most appropriately directed by the States, with assistance from the Federal Government, as requested by the States;

(13) certain Federal tax policies work against the long-term ownership, management, and conservation of forest land in the Northern Forest region, and Congress and the President should enact additional legislation to address those tax policies as soon as possible; and

(14) this section effectuates certain recommendations of the Northern Forest Lands Council that were developed with broad public input and the involvement of Federal, State, and local governments.

(b) PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, is authorized, at the request of the State of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, or Vermont, to provide technical assistance for a State-based initiative directed by the State, to define the appropriate benchmarks of sustainable forest management that address the principles of sustainability, as recommended by the Northern Forest Lands Council.

(2) PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABILITY.—It is the sense of Congress that for the purposes of paragraph (1), principles of sustainability should include—

(A) maintenance of soil productivity;

(B) conservation of water quality, wetlands, and riparian zones;

(C) maintenance or creation of a healthy balance of forest age classes;

(D) continuous flow of timber, pulpwood, and other forest products;

(E) improvement of the overall quality of the timber resource as a foundation for more value-added opportunities;

(F) addressing scenic quality by limiting adverse aesthetic impacts of forest harvesting, particularly in high-elevation areas and vistas;

(G) conservation and enhancement of habitats that support a full range of native flora and fauna;

(H) protection of unique or fragile natural areas; and

(I) continuation of opportunities for traditional recreation.

(c) NORTHERN FOREST RESEARCH COOPERATIVE.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station and the Chief of the Forest Service, is authorized, at the request of the State of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, or Vermont, to cooperate with the State, the land grant universities of the State, natural resource and forestry schools, other Federal agencies, and other interested parties in coordinating ecological and economic research, including—

(1) research at those universities on ecosystem health, forest management, product development, economics, and related fields;

(2) development of specific forest management guidelines to achieve principles of sustainability described in subsection (b) as recommended by the Northern Forest Lands Council;

(3) technology transfer to the wood products industry on efficient processing, pollution prevention, and energy conservation;

(4) dissemination of existing and new information to landowners, public and private resource managers, State forest citizen advisory committees, and the general public through professional associations, publications, and other information clearinghouse activities; and

(5) analysis of strategies for the protection of areas of outstanding ecological significance, high biodiversity, and the provision of important recreational opportunities, including strategies for areas identified

through State land acquisition planning processes.

(d) INTERSTATE COORDINATION STRATEGY.—At the request of the States of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont, the Chief of the Forest Service is authorized to make a representative of the State and Private Forest Program available to meet with representatives of the States to coordinate the implementation of Federal and State policy recommendations issued by the Northern Forest Lands Council and other policies agreed to by the States.

(e) LAND CONSERVATION.—

(1) FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Chief of the Forest Service) and the Secretary of the Interior (acting through the Director of the National Park Service and Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service) at the request of the State of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, or New York, is authorized to provide technical and financial assistance for a State-managed public land acquisition planning process and land acquisition initiatives directed by the State.

(2) PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT.—A goal-oriented planning process for a State described in paragraph (1) to establish a land conservation program shall include—

(A) identification of, and setting of priorities for the acquisition of, fee or less-than-fee interests in exceptional and important lands, in accordance with criteria that include—

(i) places offering outstanding recreational opportunities, including locations for hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, camping, and other forms of back-country recreation;

(ii) recreational access to river and lake shorelines;

(iii) land supporting vital ecological functions and values;

(iv) habitats for rare, threatened, or endangered natural communities, plants, and wildlife;

(v) areas of outstanding scenic value and significant geological features; and

(vi) working private forest lands that are of such significance or so threatened by conversion that conservation easements should be purchased;

(B) acquisition of land and interests in land only from willing sellers;

(C) involvement of local governments and landowners in the planning process in a meaningful way that acknowledges their concerns about public land acquisition;

(D) recognition that zoning, while an important land use mechanism, is not an appropriate substitution for acquisition;

(E) assurances that unilateral eminent domain will only be used with the consent of the landowner to clear title and establish purchase prices;

(F) efficient use of public funds by purchasing only the rights necessary to best identify and protect exceptional values;

(G) consideration of the potential impacts and benefits of land and easement acquisition on local and regional economies;

(H) consideration of the necessity of including costs of future public land management in the assessment of overall costs of acquisition;

(I) minimization of adverse tax consequences to municipalities by making funds available to continue to pay property taxes based at least on current use valuation of parcels acquired, payments in lieu of taxes, user fee revenues, or other benefits, where appropriate;

(J) identification of the potential for exchanging public land for privately held land of greater public value; and

(K) assurances that any land or interests inland that are acquired are used and managed for their intended purposes.