

path to economic prosperity is through balanced environmental protection, not preemption of such protection." I share the board's sentiments and feel that the FCC should take no further steps to preempt Vermont's Act 250 with respect to personal wireless service facilities.

Mr. President, the Green Mountain State has unique topography, dominated by rolling valleys and tall mountains. In turn, the citizens of the State have taken many steps to help preserve the beautiful views and pristine environment. The determination of the location of visible transmission towers should remain within the jurisdiction of local control. I feel that the Telecommunication Act of 1996 recognizes and protects the interest of local and State government in the area of land use regulation.

As the attorney general of the State of Vermont at the time of the enactment of Act 250, I am proud of the role I and many other Vermonters played in the subsequent management of the precious natural resources of the State. I support Act 250 and feel that the placement of communications towers should be left in the hands of the residents of Vermont not by a Federal agency.

I have written to the Chairman of the FCC with regard to my concerns about this proposed rulemaking. In addition, yesterday the Senate confirmed William Kennard to be the next Chairman of the FCC. Upon his confirmation, I wrote a letter to Chairman Kennard personally inviting him to the State of Vermont to see first hand how this proposed rulemaking would impact the State. I hope that he will join me on a tour of the State which will demonstrate to him the importance of local control with respect to the placement of broadcast facilities. Further, I look forward to explaining how Act 250 has allowed for the development of wireless communication in the State while protecting the environment.

Mr. President, in conclusion, I want to commend Mr. LEAHY for introducing this very important legislation for the State of Vermont. I am pleased to be a cosponsor and I look forward to working with him to protect Vermont's interests unique landscape.

By Mr. BURNS:

S. 1351. A bill to amend the Sikes Act to establish a mechanism by which outdoor recreation programs on military installations will be accessible to disabled veterans, military dependents with disabilities, and other persons with disabilities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

THE DISABLED SPORTSMEN'S ACCESS ACT

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the Disabled Sportsmen's Access Act. This legislation will provide new opportunities for sportsmen with disabilities to hunt and fish on the numerous Department of Defense facilities across this Nation. This legislation will also allow the Department of Defense to work with private

sector groups to build facilities and operate programs for the benefit of sportsmen with disabilities.

The beginnings of this legislation originate from a program developed at the Marine Corps Base at Quantico, VA. The program, run by Lt. Col. Lewis Deal, is a prime example of the work that can be done to provide new opportunities for people with disabilities. Lieutenant Colonel Deal has combined private sector volunteers work with donations from other people to build permanent disabled accessible blinds for deer hunting, which are used during both gun and bow seasons. These blinds provide people living with disabilities many of the same opportunities for outdoor recreation that we all enjoy.

There are plans underway at this time to construct a fishing pier on the Potomac River for access by people with disabilities. This pier is to be built with lower railings, and stops to provide access and security for disabled persons.

This legislation, uses the current program at Quantico, to allow the Department of the Defense to provide access to its 30 million acres of wildlands by disabled individuals, as long as it does not interfere with the primary mission of the military, that of our Nation's defense. The military installations around the Nation offer a number of recreational and outdoor activities for both military and civilian personnel.

This legislation, will encourage the Department of Defense to give access to individuals with disabilities and allow the Department to accept donations or money and materials as well as use volunteers for the construction of facilities accessible to sportsmen with disabilities. The bill would allow this voluntary work to be done without cost to the Federal Government or the taxpayer.

Madam President, this legislation has the support of numerous organizations, including the bipartisan Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans. Among sportsmen's groups the bill has the endorsement of the Wheeling Sportsmen of America, Safari Club International, Wildlife Management Institute, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. I join today with my friend Congressman DUKE CUNNINGHAM to bring this important legislation to the attention of my colleagues.

I hope that all my colleagues in Congress would join Congressman CUNNINGHAM and myself in supporting this legislation for disabled sportsmen in our country.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 28

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] was added as a cosponsor

of S. 28, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, with respect to certain exemptions from copyright, and for other purposes.

S. 678

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Florida [Mr. GRAHAM] was added as a cosponsor of S. 678, a bill to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit and district judges, and for other purposes.

S. 766

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 766, a bill to require equitable coverage of prescription contraceptive drugs and devices, and contraceptive services under health plans.

S. 813

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SESSIONS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 813, a bill to amend chapter 91 of title 18, United States Code, to provide criminal penalties for theft and willful vandalism at national cemeteries.

S. 1096

At the request of Mr. KERREY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1096, a bill to restructure the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

S. 1105

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1105, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a sound budgetary mechanism for financing health and death benefits of retired coal miners while ensuring the long-term fiscal health and solvency of such benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 1153

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Nevada [Mr. BRYAN] the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN], and the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS] were added as cosponsors of S. 1153, a bill to promote food safety through continuation of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database program operated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

S. 1194

At the request of Mr. KYL, the names of the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. FRIST] and the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] were added as cosponsors of S. 1194, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the right of medicare beneficiaries to enter into private contracts with physicians and other health care professionals for the provision of health services for which no payment is sought under the medicare program.

S. 1228

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the names of the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER] and the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY] were added as cosponsors of S. 1228, a bill to

provide for a 10-year circulating commemorative coin program to commemorate each of the 50 States, and for other purposes.

S. 1251

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the names of the Senator from Maryland [Mr. SARBANES] and the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER] were added as cosponsors of S. 1251, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount of private activity bonds which may be issued in each State, and to index such amount for inflation.

S. 1252

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1252, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount of low-income housing credits which may be allocated in each State, and to index such amount for inflation.

S. 1260

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, the name of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1260, a bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to limit the conduct of securities class actions under State law, and for other purposes.

S. 1283

At the request of Mr. BUMPERS, the names of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN] and the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER] were added as cosponsors of S. 1283, a bill to award Congressional gold medals to Jean Brown Trickey, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Melba Patillo Beals, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, and Jefferson Thomas, commonly referred collectively as the "Little Rock Nine" on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the integration of the Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

S. 1292

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the names of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY], the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL], the Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI], and the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG] were added as cosponsors of S. 1292, a bill disapproving the cancellations transmitted by the President on October 6, 1997, regarding Public Law 105-45.

S. 1297

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the name of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1297, a bill to redesignate Washington National Airport as "Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport".

S. 1310

At the request of Mr. FORD, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1310, a bill to provide market transition assistance for tobacco pro-

ducers, tobacco industry workers, and their communities.

S. 1311

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE], the Senator from Colorado [Mr. ALLARD], the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER], the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE], the Senator from Texas [Mr. GRAMM], and the Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY] were added as cosponsors of S. 1311, a bill to impose certain sanctions on foreign persons who transfer items contributing to Iran's efforts to acquire, develop, or produce ballistic missiles.

S. 1314

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Arizona [Mr. McCAIN], the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI], the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM], the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL], and the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 1314, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that married couples may file a combined return under which each spouse is taxed using the rates applicable to unmarried individuals.

S. 1327

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from Arizona [Mr. McCAIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1327, a bill to grant normal trade relations status to the People's Republic of China on a permanent basis upon the accession of the People's Republic of China to the World Trade Organization.

SENATE RESOLUTION 93

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Kansas [Mr. BROWNBACK], the Senator from Indiana [Mr. COATS], the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN], the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG], the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. DOMENICI], the Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON], the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL], the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON], the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE], the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE], the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI], the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY], the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER], the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. BREAUX], the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD], the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN], the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. FORD], the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS], the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUYE], the Senator from Wisconsin [Mr. KOHL], the Senator from Louisiana [Ms. LANDRIEU], the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG], the Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN], the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN], the Senator from New York [Mr. MOYNIHAN], the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. TORRICELLI], the Senator from Missouri [Mr. ASHCROFT], and the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] were added as cosponsors of

Senate Resolution 93, a resolution designating the week beginning November 23, 1997, and the week beginning on November 22, 1998, as "National Family Week," and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 141

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Florida [Mr. GRAHAM] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 141, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding National Concern About Young People and Gun Violence Day.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 58—EXPRESSING THE CONCERN OF CONGRESS

MR. GRAMS (for himself and Mr. SMITH of Oregon) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 58

Whereas the Russian legislature approved a bill "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Association", and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed it into law on September 26;

Whereas under the new law, the Russian government exercises almost unrestricted control over the activities of both Russian and international religious groups;

Whereas the new law will grant privileged status to some religions while discriminating against others through restrictive reporting and registration requirements;

Whereas the new law jeopardizes religious rights by permitting government officials, in consultation with privileged religious groups, to deny or revoke the registration of minority religions and order their possible disbandment or prohibition, on the basis of such activities as home schooling, nonmedical forms of healing, "hypnotic" sermons, and other vaguely defined offenses;

Whereas the law also restricts foreign missionary work in Russia;

Whereas under the new law, religious organizations or churches that wish to continue their activities in Russia will have to provide confirmation that they have existed at least 15 years, and only those who legally operated 50 years ago may be recognized as national "Russian" religious organizations;

Whereas although Article 14 of the Russian Constitution stipulates that "religious associations are separate from the state and are equal before the law", Article 19 states that restriction of citizens' rights on grounds of religious affiliation are prohibited, and Article 28 stipulates that "each person is guaranteed freedom of conscience and freedom * * * to choose, hold, and disseminate religious and other convictions and to act in accordance with them", the new law clearly violates these provisions of the Russian Constitution;

Whereas the Russian religion law violates accepted international agreements on human rights and religious freedoms to which the Russian Federation is a signatory, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Helsinki Final Act and Madrid and Vienna Concluding Documents, and the European Convention on Human Rights;

Whereas governments have a primary responsibility to promote, encourage, and protect respect for the fundamental and internationally recognized right to freedom of religion; and

Whereas the United States Government is committed to the right to freedom of religion and its policies, and should encourage