

(B) the study has commenced; and
 (2) certification by the Secretary of State to Congress that a binding resolution of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission or other legally binding instrument establishing the International Dolphin Conservation Program has been adopted and is in force.

(b) SPECIAL EFFECTIVE DATE.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary of Commerce may issue regulations under—

(1) subsection (f)(2) of the Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act (16 U.S.C. 1385(f)(2)), as added by section 5(b) of this Act;

(2) section 303(a) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1413(a)), as added by section 6(c) of this Act, at any time after the date of enactment of this Act.

THE NEED-BASED EDUCATIONAL AID ANTITRUST PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

DEWINE (AND KOHL) AMENDMENT NO. 1046

Mr. SANTORUM (for Mr. DEWINE, for himself and Mr. KOHL) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 1866) to continue favorable treatment for need-based educational aid under the anti-trust laws; as follows:

Strike section 2 and insert the following:

SEC. 2. CONTINUATION OF FAVORABLE TREATMENT FOR NEED-BASED EDUCATIONAL AND UNDER THE ANTI-TRUST LAWS.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 568 of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 (15 U.S.C. 1 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the heading, by striking “TEMPORARY”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (4) and inserting the following:

“(4) to exchange through an independent third party, before awarding need-based financial aid to any of such students who is commonly admitted to the institutions of higher education involved, data submitted by the student so admitted, the student's family, or a financial institution on behalf of the student or the student's family relating to assets, liabilities, income, expenses, the number of family members, and the number of the student's siblings in college, if each of such institutions of higher education is permitted to retrieve such data only once with respect to the student.”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “September 30, 1997” and inserting “September 30, 2001”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect immediately before September 30, 1997.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 30, for purposes of conducting a full committee business meeting which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this business meeting is to consider pending calendar business.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full Committee on Environment and Public Works be granted permission to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, July 30, 9:30 a.m., Hearing Room (SD-406) on S. 1059, the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 30, 1997, at 10:00 a.m. to hold a business meeting.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 30, 1997, at 11:00 a.m. to hold a House/Senate conference.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee Special Investigation to meet on Wednesday, July 30, at 10:00 a.m. for a hearing on campaign financing issues.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 30, 1997 at 9:30 a.m. in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Building to mark up S. 569, a bill to amend the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978; to be followed immediately by an Oversight Hearing on the Special Trustee's ‘Strategic Plan’ to reform the management of Indian trust funds.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 30, 1997 at 10:00 a.m. in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building to hold a hearing on: “Review of the Global Tobacco Settlement.”

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

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration hold a business meeting at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 30, 1997 on the status of the investigation into the contested Senate election in Louisiana at which the committee could consider and vote

upon a resolution, or resolutions, prescribing the future course of action to be taken by the committee.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 30, 1997 at 2:00 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Communications Subcommittee of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, July 30, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. on international satellite reform.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Financial Services and Technology of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 30, 1997, to conduct a hearing on the financial institution regulators' management of the year 2000 problem.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND RECREATION

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 30, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to review the management and operations of concession programs within the National Park System.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE'S POSITION ON EPA REGULATIONS

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to submit for the RECORD a concurrent resolution passed by the Michigan Legislature earlier this year. Recognizing the impact of ozone transport on the west side of the State, and understanding the potentially devastating effects of ill-considered regulations, the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan Senate adopted a resolution which urges the EPA to reaffirm the previous standards of ozone and particulate levels.

Specifically, this resolution strongly urges the EPA to maintain the .12 parts per million standard for ozone and conduct all necessary research to reach conclusive findings on questions concerning particulate matter measuring 2.5 microns in diameter and larger. In addition, this resolution asks the EPA to identify any unfunded mandates or other administrative and economic burdens for State and local governments or agencies that would result from the proposed changes to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Unfortunately, this bipartisan request has been ignored. The EPA has gone forward with new regulations. After making only minor modifications to the EPA proposal, the administration announced the final standard 2 weeks ago. I am disappointed, because I was hopeful the President would recommend a policy that recognized the importance of clean air, and the importance of jobs and economic growth. However, since he did not, I will continue to work hard to highlight the importance of these very real, very serious issues.

This resolution makes clear that the people of Michigan understand what is at stake in this debate. I wish the same could be said of the administration.

The resolution follows:

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

Whereas, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a responsibility to review periodically the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone and particulate matter (PM); and

Whereas, The EPA is considering establishing a more stringent ozone standard and a new, more stringent standard for particulate matter at or below 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}); and

Whereas, Michigan, through its local jurisdictions, businesses, and citizens, has supported health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) that are premised on sound science; and

Whereas, Michigan has made significant progress in meeting current NAAQS for both ozone and particulate matter (PM) under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, although there are some areas that have not yet come into compliance with the current standard(s); and

Whereas, Michigan, through its local jurisdictions, businesses, consumers, and taxpayers, has become considerable cost to come into compliance with the current NAAQS for ozone and particulate matter; and

Whereas, The proposed new standards will significantly expand the number of non-attainment areas for both ozone particulate matter. This may result in additional emission controls in all areas, thus imposing significant economic administrative, and regulatory burdens on Michigan, its citizens, businesses, and local governments; and

Whereas, EPA's own Clean Air Science Advisory Committee (CASAC) was unable to find any "brightline" that would distinguish any public health benefit among any of the proposed new standards for ozone, including the current standard; and

Whereas, There is very little existing PM_{2.5} monitoring data; and

Whereas, There are many unanswered questions and scientific uncertainties regarding the health effects of particulate matter, in particular PM_{2.5}, including:

Divergent opinions among scientists who have investigated the issue;

Exposure misclassification;
Measurement errors;
Lack of supporting toxicological data;
Lack of a plausible toxicological mechanism;

Lack of correlation between recorded PM levels and public health effects;
Influence of other variables; and
The existence of possible alternative explanations; and

Whereas, No scientific proof exists that establishing a more stringent ozone standard or a new, more stringent PM_{2.5} standard would avoid alleged adverse health, but it would assuredly impose significantly higher costs; and

Whereas, The issue of transported volatile organic compounds is not adequately addressed; now therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That we advise and strongly urge the EPA to reaffirm the existing NAAQS for ozone; and be it further

Resolved, That we advise and strongly urge the EPA to reaffirm the existing NAAQS for PM₁₀; and be it further

Resolved, That we advise and strongly urge the EPA to refrain from establishing a new NAAQS for PM_{2.5} at this time and to gather the necessary PM_{2.5} monitoring data and conduct all necessary research needed to address the issue of causality and other critical and important unanswered scientific questions concerning PM_{2.5}; and be it further

Resolved, That we advise and strongly urge the EPA to identify any unfunded mandates or other administrative and economic burdens for state or local governments or agencies that would result from the proposed changes to the NAAQS for ozone and particulate matter, and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, the administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and other appropriate administration officials.

Adopted by the House of Representatives, March 11, 1997.

Adopted by the Senate, March 12, 1997.●

VFW INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE LONG-DISTANCE PHONE SERVICE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States for their program called Operation Uplink. Through private donations, the VFW has been able to distribute more than 11,000 hours worth of free long-distance calling time to hospitalized veterans and active duty troops overseas who might not otherwise be able to talk with their loved ones back home. Since I represent a State which especially honors national service and has the most combat veterans per capita, you can be sure that this is an issue I care about deeply.

Shortly after I joined the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I learned that none of our country's veterans' hospitals had bedside phones. Patients had to collect change to use at a pay phone, or wait for a nurse to wheel a portable phone into their room. Not only did this inconvenience patients greatly, it added to the burdens of an already overworked nursing staff.

We all realize that a phone is more than a modern convenience; it is a lifeline to the outside world for a sick veteran. That is why I fought for, and won, \$1.5 million in 1993 to support the work of the bedside phone project, P.T. Phone Home, in West Virginia and elsewhere.

A couple of years ago when I was in West Virginia visiting the Clarksburg VA Medical Center, I spoke with a World War II combat veteran, Kenneth Getz. Mr. Getz had been experiencing serious medical problems, but he was much more concerned about his blind wife than his own health. He told me, "We start the day with a phone call and end it with a phone call. Phones should have been in here years ago." And he is exactly right—we have an obligation to make certain that every veteran receives the same quality care you or I would want for ourselves.

Unfortunately, too many poor veterans are not able to take advantage of the bedside phone service, since for many, home is not a local call from the hospital. The thought of a sick or wounded veteran, lying in a distant veterans' hospital, cut off from family, children and friends, is very troubling to me. It is plain wrong.

I highly commend the VFW for recognizing this problem and taking action. We know that in the long run, veterans who can talk to their spouse or children are not only happier, but also have higher morale, and that can go far in improving their health. I can just envision the comforting effect on a patient like Mr. Getz in having the opportunity to talk to his son in Houston or wife in Charleston—all of this made possible by the VFW initiative.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending a warm thank-you to the VFW and its members all across America. I am especially pleased to note that this service is being provided by private donations, thus protecting the already beleaguered Federal budget. This project is a tribute to the many veterans who believed in the principles of freedom and democracy strongly enough to risk their lives in the name of freedom. By providing prepaid phone cards to sick vets and overseas troops, the VFW truly "Honors the dead by helping the living."●

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUSIF GHAFARI

MR. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my warm congratulations to Mr. Yousif B. Ghafari who is celebrating the 15th anniversary of Ghafari Associates.

The economic success in Michigan is due in no small part to the invigoration of small businesses like Ghafari Associates. Over the past 15 years Ghafari Associates has risen to be the third largest architectural and engineering firm in the State. This incredible achievement is largely due to