

Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan Regulations" (I.D. 042597B) received on March 1, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2083. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Central Regulatory Area in the Gulf of Alaska" (I.D. 021999A) received on March 1, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2084. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Vessels Greater Than 99 Feet LOA Catching Pollock for Processing by the Inshore Component in the Bering Sea" (I.D. 022399B) received on March 1, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2085. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Conformance of the Western Rivers Marking System with the United States Aids to Navigation System" (RIN2115-AF14) received on March 1, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2086. A communication from the Chief of the Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operating Regulation; Bayou Chico, FL" (RIN2115-AE47) received on March 1, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2087. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oxirane, methyl-, polymer with oxirane, mono [2-(2-butoxyethoxy)ethyl]ether; Exemption from Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL6059-4) received on March 2, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2088. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's FY 2000 Budget Request; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

EC-2089. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of Torture Convention in Extradition Cases" (Notice 2991) received on February 22, 1999; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2090. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail Act"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2091. A communication from the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Administration of the Forest Development Transportation System: Temporary Suspension of Road Construction and Reconstruction in Unroaded Areas" (RIN059-6AB68) received on February 16, 1999; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2092. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Proposed Laboratory Personnel Management Demonstration Project; Department of the Navy, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C."; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-2093. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "The Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities Enhancement Act"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2094. A communication from the Chairman of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's annual report for 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2095. A communication from the Director of Selective Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Service's annual report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2096. A communication from the Rules Administrator of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Classification and Program Review: Team Meetings" (RIN1120-AA64) received on March 2, 1999; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2097. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Clean Air Act "Residual Risk Report"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2098. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone; Listing of Substitutes for Ozone-Depleting Substances" (RIN2660-AG12) received on March 2, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2099. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Colorado; Greeley Carbon Monoxide Redesignation to Attainment, Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes, and Approval of a Related Revision" (FRL6236-7) received on March 3, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2100. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Definitions of VOCs and Exempt Compounds" (FRL6238-7) received on March 3, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2101. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa" (FRL6308-5) received on March 4, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2102. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision, Antelope Valley Air Pollution Control Dis-

trict" (FRL6306-8) received on March 4, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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. THOMPSON:

S. 557. An original bill to provide guidance for the designation of emergencies as a part of the budget process; from the Committee on Governmental Affairs; placed on the calendar.

S. 558. An original bill to prevent the shutdown of the Government at the beginning of a fiscal year if a new budget is not yet enacted; from the Committee on Governmental Affairs; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. GRAMM:

S. 559. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 33 East 8th Street in Austin, Texas, as the "J.J. 'Jake' Pickle Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. REED)):

S. 560. A bill to reform the manner in which firearms are manufactured and distributed by providing an incentive to State and local governments to bring claims for the rising costs of gun violence in their communities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 561. A bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Mrs. Yaffa Eliach in recognition of her outstanding and enduring contributions toward scholarship about the Holocaust, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. JOHN-SON, and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 562. A bill to provide for a comprehensive, coordinated effort to combat methamphetamine abuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. ABRAHAM):

S. 563. A bill to repeal a waiver that permitted the issuance of a certificate of documentation with endorsement for employment in the coastwise trade for the vessel COLUMBUS, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. 564. A bill to reduce class size, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. COVERDELL (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mr. LOTT):

S. 565. A bill to provide for the treatment of the actions of certain foreign narcotics traffickers as an unusual and extraordinary threat to the United States for purposes of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 566. A bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to exempt agricultural commodities, livestock, and value-added products from unilateral economic sanctions, to prepare for future bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations affecting United States agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. ABRAHAM:

S.J. Res. 13. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect Social Security; 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. DASCHLE (for Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. Res. 59. A bill designating both July 2, 1999, and July 2, 2000, as "National Literacy Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRAMM:

S. 559. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 33 East 8th Street in Austin, Texas, as the "J.J. 'Jake' Pickle Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

J.J. "JAKE" PICKLE FEDERAL BUILDING

Mr. GRAMM. Mr. President, today I join with Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON in introducing a bill to name the Austin, Texas federal building in honor of a great Texan: Congressman J.J. "Jake" Pickle. Congressman Pickle became an institution in Washington, D.C. throughout his 30-year tenure in Congress, and his dedication and service to the people of Austin and Central Texas continue today. I had the pleasure to serve with him in the House of Representatives, and I hold him in high esteem for the man he is and the spirit in which he served. Jake Pickle walked with giants like Lyndon Johnson and Sam Rayburn, and he is a giant in his own right. I believe that naming the federal building in Austin in Jake's honor is a fitting tribute to his service on behalf of our great state and in recognition of his significant and ever-lasting contributions to our country.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. REED)):

S. 560. A bill to reform the manner in which firearms are manufactured and distributed by providing an incentive to State and local governments to bring claims for the rising costs of gun violence in their communities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE GUN INDUSTRY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1999

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Gun Industry Accountability Act of 1999 along with my colleagues, Senators DURBIN, SCHUMER, and REED of Rhode Island. This legislation is aimed at one purpose: to force the gun industry to market and manufacture their products in a safer and more responsible manner.

Mr. President, on Thursday, March 4th I was joined at the announcement of this bill by Mayor Bill Campbell of

Atlanta and Mayor Alex Penelas of Miami-Dade County. They represent two of the now five jurisdictions that have filed claims against the gun industry on behalf of the taxpayers of their communities. They seek reimbursement for the massive costs of gun violence within their borders and ultimately, major changes in the way the gun industry sells its lethal products.

Mr. President, the gun industry has long placed profits above the safety of society. The industry ignores numerous, patented safety devices for guns—even things as simple as an indicator of whether a gun is loaded. The distributors of firearms also intentionally flood certain markets with guns, knowing that the excess weapons will make their way into a nearby illegal market.

The lawsuits by these courageous mayors will likely prove to be the most effective mechanism to get the industry to alter their deadly practices. The reason is simple: it will bring the gun merchants into line by striking where they are most sensitive—the bottom line.

To aid this effort, the Gun Industry Accountability Act will strengthen the hand of the cities in court against the formidable firepower of the gun industry and its team of high-priced lawyers. It will help these mayors in their quest to get the industry to lay down its weapons, come to the table and finally agree to behave as responsible corporate citizens.

Mr. President, under current law, these cities filing claims against the gun industry are only able to recover the costs that their city or county has paid out due to gun violence. The Gun Industry Accountability Act will strengthen the mayors' hands by allowing them to recover both the city's costs for gun victims in their area as well as the Federal costs associated with these same victims. If a city eventually recovers Federal costs, either through a court judgment or settlement, then the city will be permitted to keep two thirds of the recovery and return the remaining one third to the Federal Government.

By increasing the likely reward for bringing a lawsuit against firearms manufacturers, this legislation will serve as an incentive for more cities, counties and States to join the fight to hold the gun industry accountable. When our legislation passes, it will force the industry to stare down the double barrel of local and federal liability in these suits.

Mr. President, the potential federal liability is substantial. The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control tells us that 80 percent of the economic costs of treating firearms injuries are paid for by taxpayers.

Federal taxpayers pick up the tab for disability payments through SSI, Veterans Administration, Unemployment, Medicare and other costs of treating victims of gun violence.

Mr. President, despite these enormous costs, the gun industry and its

friends in the National Rifle Association will go to any length to avoid accountability. The NRA and its corporate members are seeking state and federal legislation to take away the rights of mayors to safeguard their citizens against unsafe products and irresponsible marketing practices.

Unfortunately, the NRA's drive against the legal rights of local communities has already succeeded in at least one state. In Georgia, the state legislature has already passed a bill at the NRA's request to retroactively block the City of Atlanta's suit. Mayor Campbell has already asked the court system to throw out the legislature's unconstitutional action.

The NRA's extremism has reached new heights in Florida. In that state legislature, a bill has been introduced that would not only block Miami-Dade's lawsuit, but also declare Mayor Penelas a felon! In the NRA's world, a public official should be imprisoned for acting to protect the safety of his or her constituents.

Mr. President, here in Congress there is already talk of Federal legislation to block cities, counties and States from asserting their rights in court. If such a bill is introduced it will prove that the era of Big Government is certainly not over.

Mr. President, I pledge that I will do all I can to make sure that bill will never pass the Senate. Senators DURBIN, SCHUMER, REED and I will work tirelessly against such an unconscionable proposal.

Congress should be helping these local communities make their streets safer—not block them from accomplishing that goal.

To that end, I urge my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring the Gun Industry Accountability Act.

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. 560

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 "Gun Industry Accountability Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Across the Nation, local communities are bringing rightful legal claims against the gun industry to seek changes in the manner in which the industry conducts business in the civilian market in those communities.

(2) Since firearms are the only widely available consumer product designed to kill, firearm manufactures, distributors, and retailers have a special responsibility to take into account the health and safety of the public in marketing firearms.

(3) The gun industry has failed in this responsibility by engaging in practices that have contributed directly to the terrible burden of firearm-related violence on society.

(4) The gun industry has generally refused to include numerous safety devices with