

Whereas, the Boston Federal Trade Commission Office acts as a liaison for state and local consumer and regulatory agencies in the areas of credit, consumer protection and anti-trust as well as various other laws and regulations; and

Whereas, the Massachusetts consumers' coalition, whose members include representatives of the Massachusetts attorney general's office, the AARP, the National Consumer Law Center and local consumer protection offices, is charged with safeguarding the interests of consumers throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and believes that closing the Boston Regional office will significantly diminish the level of consumer protection throughout the commonwealth; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Massachusetts Senate hereby respectfully requests the president of the United States to direct the chairman of the Federal Trade Commission to rescind his decision closing the Boston Regional Office as it is contrary to the public's interest; and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted forthwith by the Clerk of the Senate to the President of the United States, the chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, the presiding officer of each branch of Congress and to the members thereof from this commonwealth.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

Robert Wayne Gee, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy), vice Patricia Fry Godley, resigned.

Carolyn L. Huntton, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Environmental Management).

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

William J. Hibbler, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, vice James H. Alesia, retired.

Matthew F. Kennelly, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, vice Paul E. Plunkett, retired.

Thomas Lee Strickland, of Colorado, to be United States Attorney for the District of Colorado for the term of four years, vice Henry Lawrence Solano, resigned.

Carl Schnee, of Delaware, to be United States Attorney for the District of Delaware for the term of four years vice Gregory M. Sleet, resigned.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

By Mr. WARNER, from the Committee on Armed Services:

Rose Eilene Gottemoeller, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Non-Proliferation and National Security).

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed, subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any

duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Eugene L. Tattini, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Harold L. Timboe, 0000

The following Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be brigadier general

Col. William C. Jones, Jr., 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Michael V. Hayden, 0000

The following Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 12203:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Reginald A. Centracchio, 0000

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

Capt. Edward J. Fahy, Jr., 0000

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624:

To be rear admiral

Rear Adm. (1h) Daniel R. Bowler, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) John E. Boyington, Jr., 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) John V. Chenevey, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) Albert T. Church, III, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) John P. Davis, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) John B. Foley, III, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) Veronica A. Froman, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) Alfred G. Harms, Jr., 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) John M. Johnson, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) Timothy J. Keating, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) Roland B. Knapp, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) Timothy W. LaFleur, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) James W. Metzger, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) Richard J. Naughton, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) John B. Padgett, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) Kathleen K. Paige, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) David P. Polatty, III, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) Ronald A. Route, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) Steven G. Smith, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) Ralph E. Suggs, 0000
Rear Adm. (1h) Paul F. Sullivan, 0000

Mr. WARNER, Madam President, for the Committee on Armed Services, I also report favorably the lists which were printed in full in the RECORD of March 8, 1999, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar, that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

(The nominations ordered to lie on the Secretary's desk were printed in the RECORD of March 8, 1999, at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

In the Army nomination of Patrick Finnegan, which was received by the Senate

and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 8, 1999.

In the Army nominations beginning Christopher D. Latchford, and ending James E. Braman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 8, 1999.

In the Army nominations beginning Lee G. Kennard, and ending Michael E. Thompson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 8, 1999.

In the Army nominations beginning Wesley D. Collier, and ending Thomas L. Musselman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 8, 1999.

In the Army nominations beginning David E. Bell, and ending Howard Lockwood, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 8, 1999.

In the Army nominations beginning *Jan E. Aldykiewicz, and ending *Louis P. Yob, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 8, 1999.

In the Army nominations beginning Timothy K. Adams, and ending Derick B. Ziegler, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 8, 1999.

In the Marine Corps nomination of Stanley A. Packard, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 8, 1999.

In the Marine Corps nomination of Todd D. Bjorklund, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 8, 1999.

In the Navy nomination of Tarek A. Elbeshbeshy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 8, 1999.

In the Navy nominations beginning Glen C. Crawford, and ending Leonard G. Ross, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 8, 1999.

In the Navy nominations beginning Steven W. Allen, and ending Daniel C. Wyatt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 8, 1999.

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. MURKOWSKI (for himself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 713. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a charitable deduction for certain expenses incurred in support of Native Alaskan subsistence whaling; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 714. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to maintain exemption of Alaska from dyeing requirements for exempt diesel fuel and kerosene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 715. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a portion of the Columbia River as a recreational river, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KOHL:

S. 716. A bill to provide for the prevention of juvenile crime, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DODD, Mr.

HARKIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. REID):

S. 717. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide that the reductions in social security benefits which are required in the case of spouses and surviving spouses who are also receiving certain Government pensions shall be equal to the amount by which two-thirds of the total amount of the combined monthly benefit (before reduction) and monthly pension exceeds \$1,200, adjusted for inflation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. INOUE):

S. 718. A bill to amend chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, United States Code, to extend the civil service retirement provisions of such chapter which are applicable to law enforcement officers, to inspectors of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, inspectors and canine enforcement officers of the United States Customs Service, and revenue officers of the Internal Revenue Service; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. REID:

S. 719. A bill to provide for the orderly disposal of certain Federal land in the State of Nevada and for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive land in the State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. HAGEL):

S. 720. A bill to promote the development of a government in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) based on democratic principles and the rule of law, and that respects internationally recognized human rights, to assist the victims of Serbian oppression, to apply measures against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. 721. A bill to allow media coverage of court proceedings.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BURNS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. FRIST):

S. 722. A bill to provide for the immediate application of certain orders relating to the amendment, modification, suspension, or revocation of certificates under chapter 447 of title 49, United States Code; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 723. A bill to provide regulatory amnesty for defendants who are unable to comply with federal enforceable requirements because of factors related to a Y2K system failure; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 724. A bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to clarify that underground injection does not include certain activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 725. A bill to preserve and protect coral reefs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. TORRICELLI):

S. 726. A bill to establish a matching grant program to help State and local jurisdictions purchase bullet resistant equipment for use by law enforcement departments; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 727. A bill to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed firearms and to allow States to enter into compacts to recognize other States' concealed weapons permits; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CAMPBELL:

S. 728. A bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to increase the maximum term of imprisonment for offenses involving stolen firearms; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. LOTT, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BURNS, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 729. A bill to ensure that Congress and the public have the right to participate in the declaration of national monuments on federal land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 730. A bill to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate fire safety standards for cigarettes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. DODD):

S. 731. A bill to provide for substantial reductions in the price of prescription drugs for medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TORRICELLI:

S. 732. A bill to require the Inspector General of the Department of Defense to conduct an audit of purchases of military clothing and related items made during fiscal year 1998 by certain military installations of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 733. A bill to enact the Passaic River Basin Flood Management Program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 734. A bill entitled the "National Discovery Trails Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 735. A bill to protect children from firearms violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Mr. DODD):

S. 736. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure that individuals enjoy the right to be free from restraint, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CHAFEE (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 737. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide States with options for providing family planning services and supplies to women eligible for medical assistance under the medicaid program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DODD:

S. 738. A bill to assure that innocent users and businesses gain access to solutions to the year 2000 problem-related failures through fostering an incentive to settle year 2000 lawsuits that may disrupt significant sectors of the American economy; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 739. A bill to amend the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act to

direct the Secretary of the Interior to contract with qualified financial institutions for the investment of certain trust funds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BURNS, and Mr. GRAMS):

S. 740. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to improve the hydroelectric licensing process by granting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission statutory authority to better coordinate participation by other agencies and entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KERREY, Mr. ROBB, Mr. MACK, Mr. BOND, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. MURKOWSKI):

S. 741. A bill to provide for pension reform, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 742. A bill to clarify the requirements for the accession to the World Trade Organization of the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself and Mr. HELMS):

S. 743. A bill to require prior congressional approval before the United States supports the admission of the People's Republic of China into the World Trade Organization, and to provide for the withdrawal of the United States from the World Trade Organization if China is accepted into the WTO without the support of the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI:

S. 744. A bill to provide for the continuation of higher education through the conveyance of certain public lands in the State of Alaska to the University of Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BURNS, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. GORTON, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. MACK, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. INOUE, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 745. A bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to modify the requirements for implementation of an entry-exit control system; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. ROTH, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. FRIST, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 746. A bill to provide for analysis of major rules, to promote the public's right to know the costs and benefits of major rules, and to increase the accountability of quality of Government; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 747. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to promote rail competition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI:

S. 748. A bill to improve Native hiring and contracting by the Federal Government within the State of Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DODD, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 749. A bill to establish a program to provide financial assistance to States and local entities to support early learning programs for prekindergarten children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 750. A bill to protect the rights of residents of certain federally funded hospitals; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. TORRICELLI):

S. 751. A bill to combat nursing home fraud and abuse, increase protections for victims of telemarketing fraud, enhance safeguards for pension plans and health care benefit programs, and enhance penalties for crimes against seniors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 752. A bill to facilitate the recruitment of temporary employees to assist in the conduct of the 2000 decennial census of population, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BAYH, and Mr. EDWARDS):

S. 753. A bill to enhance competition in the financial services industry by providing a prudential framework for the affiliation of banks, securities firms, and other financial service providers; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. EDWARDS (for himself and Mr. HELMS):

S. 754. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 310 New Bern Avenue in Raleigh, North Carolina, as the "Terry Sanford Federal Building"; read the first time.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. HELMS, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 755. A bill to extend the period for compliance with certain ethical standards for Federal prosecutors; read the first time.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Mr. BREAUX, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. LOTT, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BOND, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. ASHCROFT):

S. 756. To provide adversely affected crop producers with additional time to make fully informed risk management decisions for the 1999 crop year; considered and passed.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. KERREY, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. ROBB, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. LOTT, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. BURNS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. GORTON, Mr. BREAUX, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. BOND, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 757. A bill to provide a framework for consideration by the legislative and executive branches of unilateral economic sanctions in order to ensure coordination of United States policy with respect to trade, security, and human rights; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ASHCROFT (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. DODD, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr.

LIEBERMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 758. A bill to establish legal standards and procedures for the fair, prompt, inexpensive, and efficient resolution of personal injury claims arising out of asbestos exposure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. BURNS, and Mr. REID):

S. 759. A bill to regulate the transmission of unsolicited commercial electronic mail on the Internet, and for other purposes.

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

S. 760. A bill to include the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the 50 States Commemorative Coin Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BURNS):

S. 761. A bill to regulate interstate commerce by electronic means by permitting and encouraging the continued expansion of electronic commerce through the operation of free market forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. 762. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a feasibility study on the inclusion of the Miami Circle in Biscayne National Park; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. HELMS):

S.J. Res. 16. A joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment to establish limited judicial terms of office; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SHELBY:

S.J. Res. 17. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which requires (except during time of war and subject to suspension by the Congress) that the total amount of money expended by the United States during any fiscal year not exceed the amount of certain revenue received by the United States during such fiscal year and not exceed 20 per centum of the gross national product of the United States during the previous calendar year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LOTT:

S. Res. 75. A resolution reconstituting the Senate Arms Control Observer Group as the Senate National Security Working Group and revising the authority of the Group; considered and agreed to.

S. Con. Res. 23. A concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. Con. Res. 24. A bill to express the sense of the Congress on the need for United States to defend the American agricultural and food supply system from industrial sabotage and terrorist threats; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 713. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a charitable deduction for certain expenses incurred in support of Native Alaskan subsistence whaling; to the Committee on Finance.

NATIVE ALASKAN SUBSISTENCE WHALING ACT OF 1999

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise on behalf of myself and Senator STEVENS to introduce legislation that would resolve a dispute that has existed for several years between the IRS and native whaling captains in my state. Our legislation would amend the Internal Revenue Code to ensure that a charitable donation tax deduction would be allowed for native whaling captains who organize and support subsistence whaling activities in their communities.

Subsistence whaling is a necessity to the Alaska Native community. In many of our remote village communities, the whale hunt is a tradition that has been carried on for generations over many millennia. It is the custom that the captain of the hunt make all provisions for the meals, wages and equipment costs associated with this important activity.

In most instances, the Captain is repaid in whale meat and muktuck, which is blubber and skin. However, as part of the tradition, the Captain is required to donate a substantial portion of the whale to his village in order to help the community survive.

The proposed deduction would allow the Captain to deduct up to \$7,500 to help defray the costs associated with providing this community service.

Mr. President, I want to point out that if the Captain incurred all of these expenses and then donated the whale meat to a local charitable organization, the Captain would almost certainly be able to deduct the costs he incurred in outfitting the boat for the charitable purpose. However, the cultural significance of the Captain's sharing the whale with the community would be lost.

This is a very modest effort to allow the Congress to recognize the importance of this part of our Native Alaskan tradition. When this measure passed the senate two years ago, the Joint Committee on Taxation estimated that this provision would cost a mere three million dollars over a 10 year period. I think that is a very small price for preserving this vital link with our natives' heritage.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the legislation be included in the RECORD.

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

S. 713

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