

country, of which the Northeast region is one, and is voluntarily initiated and approved by a majority of producers in each milk marketing order area, which places requirements on the first buyers or handlers of milk from dairy farmers.

Currently, the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact allows the New England milk marketing order region to add a small increment to the Federal order price for that region, which is the floor price, so only the consumers and the processors in the New England region pay to support the minimum price to provide for a fairer return to the area's family dairy farms and to protect a way of life important to the people of the Northeast.

Mr. President, the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact has provided the very safety net that we had hoped for when the Compact passed as part of the Freedom to Farm Act, the omnibus farm bill, of 1996. The Dairy Compact has helped farmers maintain a stable price for fluid milk during times of volatile swings in farm milk prices. In the spring and summer months of 1997 and 1998, for instance, when milk prices throughout most U.S. markets dropped at least 20 cents a gallon while consumer prices remained constant, the payments to Northeast Interstate Compact dairy farmers remained above the federal milk marketing prices for Class I fluid milk because of the Dairy Compact—and, I might add, at no expense to the federal government. The costs to operate the Dairy Compact are borne entirely by the farmers and processors of the Compact region.

Also, in considering what has happened to the number of dairy farms staying in business since the formation of the Dairy Compact, it is now known that throughout New England, there has been a decline in the loss of dairy farmers since the Compact started. This is a clear demonstration that, with the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, the dairy producers were provided a safety net—and when there has been a rise in the federal milk marketing prices for Class I fluid milk, the Compact has automatically shut itself off from the pricing process.

Mr. President, over ninety seven percent of the fluid milk market in New England is self contained within the area, and fluid milk markets are local due to the demand for freshness and because of high transportation costs, so any complaints raised in other areas about unfair competition are a bit disingenuous. In addition, the Compact requires the compact commission to take such action as necessary to ensure that a minimum price set by the commission for the region does not create an incentive for producers to generate additional supplies of milk. No other region should feel threatened by our Northeast Dairy Compact for fluid milk produced and sold mainly at home.

It should be noted that, in the farm bill conference in 1996, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture was required to

review the dairy compact legislation before implementation to determine if there was "compelling public interest" for the Compact within the Compact region. On August 9, 1996, and only after a public comment period, Secretary Glickman authorized the implementation of the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact, finding that it was indeed in the compelling public interest to do so.

In addition, the Agriculture Appropriations Act for FY1998 directed the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to study the economic effects of the Compact and especially its effects on the federal food and nutrition programs, such as the Womens, Infants and Children program. Key findings of the OMB study released in February of 1998, showed that, for the first six months of the Compact, New England retail milk prices were five cents per gallon lower than retail milk prices nationally. Also, the Compact did not add any costs to federal nutrition programs like the WIC program and the school breakfast and lunch programs. The GAO study also stated that the Compact economically benefitted the dairy producers, increasing their income from milk sales by about six percent, with no adverse affects to dairy farmers outside the Compact region.

Mr. President, the consumers in the Northeast Compact area, and now other areas around the country, are showing their willingness to pay more for their milk if the additional money is going directly to the dairy farmer. Environmental organizations have also supported dairy compacting as compacts help to preserve dwindling agricultural land and open spaces that help combat urban sprawl.

I ask for the support of my colleagues for the reauthorization of the Northeast Compact and the ratification of the Southern Compact.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I am proud to join with 35 of my fellow Senators to introduce legislation to reauthorize the Northeast Dairy Compact and extend it to New York State. This legislation is vital to the Northeast Region and it will strengthen the economy of upstate New York.

The Compact may add a couple of cents to the consumer price of milk during months when the retail price of milk falls below a federally set minimum price, but it is a small price to pay to preserve the family dairy farm in rural New York.

The purpose of the Compact is to stabilize dairy prices and therefore enable small dairy farmers to budget their expenditures and plan for the future. The Northeast Dairy Compact works by ensuring a minimum retail price for milk producers. The price paid to farmers for milk has fallen from \$2.77 in 1960 to \$1.36 in 1997. These low milk prices have forced many small farmers into insolvency over the years and have put the entire concept of family farms in peril.

The Northeast Dairy Compact will preserve the American tradition of

local family farms in every region. I believe that this is a tiny price to pay to keep local farmers in business, and keep New York State's rural identity intact.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 38

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 38, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to phase out the estate and gift taxes over a 10-year period.

S. 51

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 51, a bill to reauthorize the Federal programs to prevent violence against women, and for other purposes.

S. 98

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. 98, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Surface Transportation Board for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 296

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to provide for continuation of the Federal research investment in a fiscally sustainable way, and for other purposes.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, a bill to amend the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to improve the farmland protection program.

S. 395

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 395, a bill to ensure that the volume of steel imports does not exceed the average monthly volume of such imports during the 36-month period preceding July 1997.

S. 434

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 434, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify the method of payment of taxes on distilled spirits.

S. 459

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 459, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the State ceiling on private activity bonds.

S. 472

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 472, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide certain medicare beneficiaries with an exemption to the financial limitations imposed on physical, speech-language pathology, and occupational therapy services under part B of the medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 487

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 487, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional retirement savings opportunities for small employers, including self-employed individuals.

S. 540

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 540, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that housing assistance provided under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 be treated for purposes of the low-income housing credit in the same manner as comparable assistance.

S. 704

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 704, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to combat the overutilization of prison health care services and control rising prisoner health care costs.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. THOMPSON, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 763

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 763, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase the minimum Survivor Benefit Plan basic annuity for surviving spouses age 62 and older, and for other purposes.

S. 791

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 791, a bill to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the women's business center program.

S. 795

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 795, a bill to amend the Fastener Quality Act to strengthen the protection against the sale of mismarked, misrepresented, and coun-

terfeit fasteners and eliminate unnecessary requirements, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 795, supra.

S. 823

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 823, a bill to establish a program to assure the safety of processed produce intended for human consumption, and for other purposes.

S. 836

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 836, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group health plans and health insurance issuers provide women with adequate access to providers of obstetric and gynecological services.

S. 873

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 873, a bill to close the United States Army School of the Americas.

S. 876

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 876, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require that the broadcast of violent video programming be limited to hours when children are not reasonably likely to comprise a substantial portion of the audience.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 21

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) were added as cosponsors of Senate Joint Resolution 21, a joint resolution to designate September 29, 1999, as "Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day."

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 22

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 22, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress with respect to promoting coverage of individuals under long-term care insurance.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30—RECOGNIZING THE SACRIFICE AND DEDICATION OF MEMBERS OF AMERICA'S NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PRIVATE VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THEIR HISTORY AND SPECIFICALLY IN ANSWER TO THEIR COURAGEOUS RESPONSE TO RECENT DISASTERS IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND KOSOVO

Mr. SMITH of Oregon (for himself, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. SAR-

BANES, and Mr. BROWNBACK) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

S. CON. RES. 30

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress—

(1) recognizes and commends the sacrifice, dedication, and commitment of those serving with, and those who have served with, American non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and private volunteer organizations (PVO's) that provide humanitarian relief to millions of the world's poor and displaced;

(2) urges all Americans to join in commemorating and honoring those serving in, and those who have served in, America's NGO and PVO community for their sacrifice, dedication and commitment; and

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to appreciate and reflect upon the commitment and dedication of relief workers, that they often serve in harm's way with threats to their own health and safety, and their organizations who have responded to recent tragedies in Central America and Kosovo with great care, skill and speed, and to take appropriate steps to recognize and encourage awareness of the contributions that these relief workers and their organizations have made in helping ease human suffering.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to submit S. Con. Res. 30, in order to recognize the sacrifice and dedication of members of America's non-governmental organizations and private volunteer organizations throughout their history and specifically in answer to their courageous response to recent disasters in Central America and Kosovo. I am pleased to be joined by Senators WELLSTONE, THOMAS, SARBANES and BROWNBACK as original cosponsors.

While much time on the Senate floor has been devoted to America's response to the natural disaster wrought by Hurricane Mitch in Central America and the human disaster wrought by the horrifying aggression in the Balkans, little has been devoted to those organizations conducting humanitarian relief efforts in those areas.

I am proud to note that several Oregon humanitarian organizations have been on the front lines in both Central America and the Balkans—particularly in Kosovo. Mercy Corps International based in Portland, Oregon, is one of the largest humanitarian agencies helping Kosovar Albanian refugees and first began work in that area in 1993. Over the past six years, the agency has provided more than \$30 million in relief and development aid to 250,000 people in the area.

Whether it be providing food, blankets, clothing, hygiene and cooking utensils to the first onslaught of refugees, or managing refugee camps in Senekos, Mercy Corps International has made humanitarian aid a priority in a desperate situation.

In Central America, Mercy Corps' Hurricane Mitch relief efforts included evacuating thousands of children and families, delivering housing materials for tents and temporary shelter, and providing more than 200,000 pounds of