

On page 76, line 23, after the word "years," insert the following: "\$6 million shall be available for the Advanced Development Project Powder River Coal Initiative to be located in Gillette, Wyoming, and".

MACK (AND GRAHAM)
AMENDMENT NO. 1490

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. MACK (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, H.R. 2466, *supra*; as follows:

On page 13, line 8, strike "\$55,244,000" and insert "\$54,744,000".

On page 17, line 19, strike "\$221,093,000" and insert "\$221,593,000".

TAXPAYER REFUND ACT OF 1999

DORGAN AMENDMENT NO. 1491

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. DORGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill, S. 1429, *supra*; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE NEED TO ENCOURAGE IMPROVEMENTS IN MAIN STREET BUSINESSES BY EXPANDING EXISTING SMALL BUSINESS TAX EXPENSING RULES TO INCLUDE INVESTMENTS IN BUILDINGS AND OTHER DEPRECIABLE REAL PROPERTY.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) under current tax law, small businesses can immediately deduct, that is, "expense", up to \$19,000 in purchases of equipment and similar assets;

(2) there is bipartisan support for increasing the amount of this expensing provision because it helps many small businesses make the investments in equipment and machinery they need by allowing them to immediately write off the costs of such investments and bolstering their cash flow;

(3) this expensing provision, however, is not as helpful as it could be for some small businesses because it does not cover their investments in improving the storefront or the buildings in which they conduct their business;

(4) in many small towns, the local drug store, shoe store, or grocery store doesn't have much need for new equipment, but it does need to improve the storefront or the interior;

(5) although such investments are good for Main Streets across this Nation, our current tax law creates a disincentive to make them by requiring a small business owner to depreciate the costs of the building improvements over 39 years for tax purposes;

(6) legislation to expand the current expensing provision to cover investments in depreciable real property was recently introduced in the Senate with broad bipartisan cosponsorship, including the leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties;

(7) this proposal is also strongly supported by small business-oriented trade groups, including the National Federation of Independent Business, the Small Business Legislative Council, and the National Association of Realtors;

(8) the Department of the Treasury is currently conducting a comprehensive study of all depreciation provisions in our tax laws; and

(9) Congress should consider expanding the existing expensing provision to cover investments in storefront improvements and other

depreciable real property in any reform legislation that results from this study or, if possible, in any earlier legislation.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) many small businesses trying to improve their storefronts on Main Street or investing to upgrade their property would benefit if Congress expanded the existing expensing provision to cover investments in depreciable real property; and

(2) Congress should consider including this proposal in any future tax legislation.

in the Fossil Energy Research and Development account".

On page 78, line 24, strike "\$133,000,000" and insert "\$138,600,000".

On page 79, line 1, strike "\$33,000,000" and insert "\$34,400,000".

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that the hearing scheduled before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to receive testimony regarding S. 1052, To implement further the Act (Public Law 94-241) approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes, has been postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date.

For further information, please call James Beirne, Deputy Chief Counsel (202) 224-2564 or Betty Nevitt, Staff Assistant at (202) 224-0765.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 29, 1999. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the markup of the original bill regarding the Livestock Mandatory Report Act of 1999.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 29, 1999, at 2 p.m., to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE YEAR 2000 TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem be permitted to meet on July 29, 1999, at 9:30 a.m., for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR, WETLANDS, PRIVATE PROPERTY AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property, and Nuclear Safety be granted permission to conduct a hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed sulfur standard for gasoline as contained in the proposed Tier Two standards for automobiles Thursday, July 29, 9:30 a.m., hearing room (SD-406).

BENNETT (AND OTHERS)
AMENDMENT NO. 1493

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. BENNETT (for himself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. REED, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them to the bill, S. 1429, *supra*; as follows:

On page 94, line 7, strike "\$86,000,000" and insert "\$90,000,000".

On page 95, line 5, strike "\$97,550,000" and insert "\$101,550,000".

JEFFORDS AMENDMENT NO. 1494

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. JEFFORDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them to the bill, H.R. 2466, *supra*; as follows:

On page 78, line 16, strike "\$682,817,000" and insert "\$689,817,000".

On page 78, line 19, strike "account:" and insert "and of which \$7,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from unobligated balances

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT, SAFETY, AND TRAINING

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Subcommittee on Employment, Safety, and Training be authorized to meet for a hearing on "The FAIR Act: Balancing the Scale of Justice for Small Business" during the session on Thursday, July 29, 1999, at 9:30 a.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on European Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 29, 1999, at 3 p.m., to hold a hearing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND RECREATION

Mr. GRAMS. 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 Thursday, July 29, for purposes of conducting a subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2:15 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on S. 710, a bill to authorize a feasibility study on the preservation of certain Civil War battlefields along the Vicksburg Campaign Trail; S. 905, a bill to establish the Lackawana Valley American Heritage Area; S. 1093, a bill to establish the Galisteo Basin Archeological Protection Sites and to provide for the protection of archeological sites in the Galisteo Basin of New Mexico, and for other purposes; S. 1117, a bill to establish the Corinth Unit of the Shiloh National Military Park, in the vicinity of the city of Corinth, Mississippi, and in the State of Tennessee, and for other purposes; S. 1234, a bill to expand the boundaries of Gettysburg National Military Park to include the Wills House, and for other purposes; and S. 1349, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct special resource studies to determine the national significance of specific sites as well as the suitability and feasibility of their inclusion as units of the National Park System.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS AND FISHERIES

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Oceans and Fisheries Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, July 29, 1999, at 9:30 a.m., on Magnuson Act reauthorization.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, RESTRUCTURING AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Governmental Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia be permitted to meet on Thursday, July 29, 1999, at 9:30 a.m., for a hearing on Total Quality Management: State Success Stories as a Model for the Federal Government.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SECURITIES

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Securities of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 29, 1999, to conduct a hearing on "Accounting for Loan Loss Reserves."

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE LAWSUITS AGAINST THE FIREARM INDUSTRY

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, there is no way to measure the costs of gun crime in our society. There are estimates that put the price at \$75 billion for one year of pain, suffering, and loss of quality of life caused by gun violence, but there is no real way to determine the incalculable human cost of gun-related crime. There is, however, a method to measure other financial costs associated with firearm crime. For instance, the estimated cost of health care for firearms related injuries in the United States was \$4 billion in 1995. The average per-person cost of a firearm fatality is \$373,000 per death, higher than any injury-related death. And, on average, it costs more than \$14,000 to treat each child wounded by a firearm.

Cities spend millions each year on these costs and others associated with gun related emergencies. The expenses incurred by cities include medical treatment for victims, additional police protection, and counseling services for survivors of murder victims. These additional costs are the basis of the class-action lawsuits against the firearm manufacturers, distributors and dealers. Nearly two dozen local governments, including Wayne County and Detroit, have filed suit against the manufacturers and distributors of firearms to recoup the costs of firearm related crime. And following their lead, the NAACP filed a lawsuit that does not seek monetary damages, but instead, seeks to put an end to the emotional costs of gun violence incurred by the African-American community.

The recent wave of class-action lawsuits against the firearms industry are based on the industry's failure to monitor the transmission of their product

to the underground markets. These class-action lawsuits seek to alter the marketing, distribution and sales of firearms. More specifically, they are an attempt to remedy the industry's failure to prevent unauthorized users from obtaining access to firearms, change the distribution system that permits firearms to be easily trafficked from the legal marketplace to the illegal marketplace, and eliminate deceptive advertising regarding the risks posed by having firearms in the home. Stated simply, these lawsuits are about distributing firearms responsibly.

The NAACP lawsuit is slightly different because it does not seek to recover monetary damages, but the effect of the lawsuit would be the same. It seeks to change the sale, marketing, and distribution of the gun industry, whose alleged negligence permits the free flow of weapons into the hands of juveniles and criminals. It asks for a court order to limit the number of firearms a single buyer can purchase each month and would require gun manufacturers to train retailers about "straw" purchases, and supervise the sales practices of firearms distributors and retailers. It would also require that dealers operate from a fixed retail location, and ensure that handguns are manufactured with safety devices.

If the gun industry is found liable, it will draw a direct line of responsibility from the gun manufacturers to the unscrupulous distributors and dealers who provide firearms to felons. The gun industry would no longer be able to oversupply certain markets, thereby allowing guns to flow into the hands of juveniles and criminals. Manufacturers would no longer be able to turn a blind eye to the carnage produced by their products. If the gun industry is found liable, it may put an end to a majority of the gun violence caused by the unlawful, unregulated, underground firearm market. •

RECOGNIZING LANCE ARMSTRONG

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, today I recognize the remarkable achievements of Lance Armstrong, winner of the prestigious Tour de France bicycle race. On Sunday, July 25, less than 3 years after being diagnosed with testicular cancer, he sprinted to an inspirational victory in Paris. Lance Armstrong is a Texan who is an example of strength and courage to all cancer patients and athletes. He is only the second American in history to win the Tour de France, one of the world's most grueling athletic contests, and he is the first cancer survivor to achieve the feat.

Lance Armstrong was born in Dallas, Texas, and grew up in nearby Plano. He first competed in athletics as a swimmer and took up the triathlon, which includes swimming, running, and cycling, at age 14. At 17, after his potential was recognized by the U.S. national cycling team coach, he switched to cycling full-time. Lance Armstrong