

EC-7868. A communication from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "1998 Biennial Regulatory Review—Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Amateur Service Rules" (WT Docket No. 98-143, FCC 99-412), received March 2, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7869. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747-100, -200, and -300 Series Airplanes; Docket No. 99-NM-366 (2-29/3-2)" (RIN2120-AA64) (2000-0124), received March 2, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7870. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Appliance Labeling Rule, 16 CFR, Part 305" (RIN3084-AA74), received March 6, 2000; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7871. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the feasibility and advisability of offering chiropractic health care within the Military Health System; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7872. A communication from the Director, Financial Management, General Accounting Office transmitting, pursuant to law, the 1999 annual report of the Comptrollers' General Retirement System; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-7873. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tentative Differential Earnings Rate" (Notice 2000-16), received March 28, 2000; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7874. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, U.S. Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the danger pay rate for Montenegro; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7875. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to License Exception CTP" (RIN0694-AC14), received March 3, 2000; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7876. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Design Considerations Handbook" (DOE HDBK 1132-99), received March 2, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7877. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Integrated Safety Management Systems Verification Team Leader's Handbook" (DOE HDBK 3027-99), received March 2, 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-7878. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bentazon; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL #6492-7), received March 3, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7879. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and

Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Diclosulam; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL #6492-3), received March 3, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7880. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Regulatory Analysis and Development, Policy and Program Development, Animal and Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Brucellosis in Cattle; State and Area Classifications; Arkansas" (Docket #97-108-2), received March 3, 2000; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7881. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Abnormal Occurrences Fiscal Year 1999"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7882. A communication from the Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to funding for the response to the emergency declared as a result of the severe fires in California; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7883. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a draft of proposed legislation relative to appropriations for fiscal year 2001; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-421. A resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Buffalo, NY relative to the proposed Great Lakes Grant Program; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-422. A concurrent resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa relative to the lower Des Moines River; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 101

Whereas, the lower Des Moines River is one of the most important natural resources in southeast Iowa; and

Whereas, the lower Des Moines River is impacted by the reservoir at Lake Red Rock; and

Whereas, the United States Corps of Engineers is responsible for the management of the reservoir; and

Whereas, the last management plan was put into effect for the reservoir at Lake Red Rock in 1993; and

Whereas, the management plan has had a tremendous impact on the lower Des Moines River, concerning both water quality and recreation; and

Whereas, there seems to be an adverse impact on the environment due to the present management plan of Red Rock Reservoir: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring. That the Iowa General Assembly requests the United States Corps of Engineers to conduct a new study regarding the management of the lower Des Moines River; and be it further

Resolved. That copies of this Concurrent Resolution be sent by the Secretary of the Senate to the members of Iowa's delegation, to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, and

to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

POM-423. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of South Dakota relative to railroad cars and railroad companies operating in the State of South Dakota; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 8

Whereas, there have been numerous accidents and unnecessary fatalities at unlit and unguarded railroad crossings throughout our state; and

Whereas, means now exist by which citizens can be made aware that there are railroad cars blocking the road ahead; and

Whereas, railroad reflectorization would provide positive indication of the presence of a railroad car; and

Whereas, some of the railroads operating in the state have recognized the need for reflectorized railroad cars and have voluntarily reflectorized their railroad cars; and

Whereas, other railroads have not implemented such a reflectorization program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate of the Seventy-fifth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein. That all owners of railroad cars in South Dakota and all railroad companies operating in South Dakota be hereby requested to voluntarily reflectorize their railroad cars; and be it further

Resolved. That all owners of railroad cars in South Dakota and all railroad companies operating in South Dakota be hereby requested to voluntarily adopt a policy of only leasing railroad cars that have been reflectorized; and be it further

Resolved. That the South Dakota Congressional Delegation and the Clinton Administration be hereby requested to enact legislation that would require railroads operating in the United States to reflectorize all of their railroad cars in a timely manner.

POM-424. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the proposed Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 319

Whereas, Fire departments and their volunteer members and employees are an essential element in preserving the public order and safety in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, Firefighters throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania make great sacrifices on behalf of their fellow Pennsylvanians on a daily basis; and

Whereas, Federal, State and local government all share an unspoken obligation to protect the health and safety of firefighters as well as the entirety of the general public; and

Whereas, This obligation requires that fire departments have the financial resources to purchase necessary equipment and other items; and

Whereas, Fire departments constantly find themselves under increased financial constraints in the effort to provide exemplary public protection; and

Whereas, State and local governments continue to bear the overwhelming burden for funding fire departments throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; therefore be it

Resolved. That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania strongly urge the United States House of Representatives and Senate to pass and enact the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act (H.R. No. 1168) and/

or similar legislation in order to provide directly needed funding for fire departments; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-425. A resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders, Cape May County, NJ relative to the disposal of contaminated materials in the Atlantic Ocean at the Mud Dump site; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-426. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Cambridge, MA relative to the island of Vieques, PR; to the Committee on Armed Services.

POM-427. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to amendment of the Constitution; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1653. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (Rept. No. 106-230).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first time and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. SARBANES):

S. 2181. A bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act to provide full funding for funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to provide dedicated funding for other conservation programs, including coastal stewardship, wildlife habitat protection, State and local park and open space preservation, historic preservation, forestry conservation programs, and youth conservation corps; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 2182. A bill to reduce, suspend, or terminate any assistance under the foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to each country determined by the President to be engaged in oil price fixing to the detriment of the United States economy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Ms. SNOWE, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2183. A bill to ensure the availability of spectrum to amateur radio operators; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. SARBANES):

S. 2181. A bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act to provide full funding for funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to provide dedicated funding for other conservation programs, including coastal stewardship, wildlife habitat protection, State and local part and open space preservation, historic preservation, forestry conservation programs, and youth conservation corps; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP ACT

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce the "Conservation and Stewardship Act," which is cosponsored by Senators HOLLINGS, BAUCUS, KERRY, BOXER, LIEBERMAN, BRYAN, AKAKA, LEAHY, and SARBANES. This comprehensive bill will provide permanent and dedicated funding from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas revenues to be used for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and many other important conservation programs, including coastal, wildlife habitat, endangered species, historic preservation, State and local park and open space preservation, forestry and farmland conservation, and youth conservation corps programs. While the bill will ensure much-needed funding for many Federal conservation programs, most of the programs included in the bill will assist States, counties, or cities to implement local conservation and recreation projects. In addition, this legislation will, for the first time, fully fund the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, which provides payments to local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from Federal lands in their jurisdiction.

In developing this bill, I have tried to include a variety of programs to ensure that the benefits from OCS revenues—which are a federal resource belonging to all Americans—are equitably distributed throughout the country. While some programs in the bill are of specific interest to coastal States, others will have more application in interior areas; some programs in the bill provide funding for large cities and urban areas, while others are designed to assist rural communities. If we are to succeed in passing a comprehensive conservation bill this year, the benefits must extend to all regions of the country.

In addition, I think it's important to recognize that several very meritorious legislative proposals have already been put forward. One of my goals in developing this bill was to try and incorporate important programs from the other bills, and I am pleased that many of the sponsors of those proposals are also supporting this bill. I also want to recognize the efforts that Senator LANDRIEU, Senator MURKOWSKI, and others have made in generating support for a comprehensive conservation bill with their legislative proposal. While there are differences in our bills

and in some of our funding priorities, I believe our underlying goals are the same. I am committed to working with them, and with all other interested Senators, as we try to pass a bill this year.

I would like to add that my primary goal in introducing this bill is to try and move the legislative process forward in the Senate. I think a consensus approach, such as we are proposing today, is our only chance of getting a bill enacted into law this year.

I know some have questioned why these programs—or any program—should be provided with dedicated funding. When Congress amended the LWCF Act in 1968 to credit a portion of Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease revenues into the fund, the premise was that at least some of the revenues from OCS oil and gas production, a non-renewable resource, should be used to protect other resources throughout the country. I think that was a wise concept then, and one we should continue to adhere to today. Along those lines, it is important that whatever programs are included in a comprehensive bill contribute to enriching the natural, cultural, or historical legacy of this country. In my opinion, such a bill is not only justifiable, but necessary if we are going to be responsible to future generations.

Mr. President, I would like to briefly describe some of the major programs that would receive dedicated funding in this bill.

Since its enactment over 35 years ago, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act has been not only one of the most popular conservation measures ever signed into law, but one of the most far-sighted as well. Revenues deposited into the fund are used to protect our national and cultural heritage in our national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, trails, wild and scenic rivers, and other important areas. In addition, the LWCF State grant program assists States in the planning, acquisition, and development of open space and outdoor recreation facilities.

However, over the past 35 years, appropriations from the LWCF have lagged far behind the amounts credited into the fund, even though demand for LWCF funding continues to increase. In fact, on average, less than half of the amounts credited to the fund have actually been authorized. Today, the fund's unappropriated balance exceeds \$13 billion. History has shown that if the LWCF remains subject to the annual appropriations process, the intent of the fund will never be fulfilled. For that reason, my bill uses OCS oil and gas receipts to provide dedicated funding for the LWCF and all of the other conservation programs in the bill. The bill funds the LWCF and its fully authorized level of \$900 million annually, divided equally between the Federal land acquisition and State grant programs.

In addition, I think it's important that the benefits we will get from fully