

S. 2291

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2291, a bill to provide assistance for efforts to improve conservation of, recreation in, erosion control of, and maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat of the Missouri River in the State of South Dakota, and for other purposes.

S. 2293

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2293, a bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to provide for the payment of Financing Corporation interest obligations from balances in the deposit insurance funds in excess of an established ratio and, after such obligations are satisfied, to provide for rebates to insured depository institutions of such excess reserves.

S. 2299

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2299, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to continue State Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) allotments for fiscal year 2001 at the levels for fiscal year 2000.

S. 2300

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2300, a bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for coal that may be held by an entity in any 1 State.

S. RES. 90

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 90, a resolution designating the 30th day of April 2000 as "Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans," and for other purposes.

S. RES. 271

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 271, a resolution regarding the human rights situation in the People's Republic of China.

SENATE RESOLUTION 279—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS SHOULD HOLD HEARINGS AND THE SENATE SHOULD ACT ON THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr.

LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROBB, Mr. REED, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 279

Whereas the United States has shown leadership in promoting human rights, including the rights of women and girls, and was instrumental in the development of international human rights treaties and norms, including the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);

Whereas the Senate has already agreed to the ratification of several important human rights treaties, including the Genocide Convention, the Convention Against Torture, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

Whereas CEDAW establishes a worldwide commitment to combat discrimination against women and girls;

Whereas 165 countries of the world have ratified or acceded to CEDAW and the United States is among a small minority of countries, including Afghanistan, North Korea, Iran, and Sudan, which have not;

Whereas CEDAW is helping combat violence and discrimination against women and girls around the world;

Whereas CEDAW has had a significant and positive impact on legal developments in countries as diverse as Uganda, Colombia, Brazil, and South Africa, including, on citizenship rights in Botswana and Japan, inheritance rights in Tanzania, property rights and political participation in Costa Rica;

Whereas the Administration has proposed a small number of reservations, understandings, and declarations to ensure that U.S. ratification fully complies with all constitutional requirements, including states' and individuals' rights;

Whereas the legislatures of California, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota, and Vermont have endorsed U.S. ratification of CEDAW;

Whereas more than one hundred U.S.-based, civic, legal, religious, education, and environmental organizations, including many major national membership organizations, support U.S. ratification of CEDAW;

Whereas ratification of CEDAW would allow the United States to nominate a representative to the CEDAW oversight committee; and

Whereas 2000 is the 21st anniversary of the adoption of CEDAW by the United Nations General Assembly: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Senate Foreign Relations Committee should hold hearings on the convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and

(2) the Senate should act on CEDAW by July 19, 2000, the 20th anniversary of the signing of the convention by the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 280—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE WITH RESPECT TO UNITED STATES RELATIONS WITH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN VIEW OF THE SITUATION IN CHECHNYA

Mr. WELLSTONE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 280

Whereas the Senate of the United States unanimously passed Senate Resolution 262 on February 24, 2000, condemning the indiscriminate use of force by the Government of the Russian Federation against the people of Chechnya, encouraging peace negotiations between the Government of the Russian Federation and the leadership of the Chechen Government, and urging the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately grant international organizations full and unimpeded access into Chechnya in order to provide humanitarian assistance and investigate alleged atrocities and war crimes;

Whereas the Committee of Foreign Relations of the Senate received credible evidence and testimony reporting grave human rights violations on both sides of the war in Chechnya;

Whereas the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate received credible evidence and testimony that Russian forces in Chechnya caused the deaths of countless thousands of innocent civilians and the displacement of well over 250,000 innocents; forcibly relocated refugee populations; and committed widespread atrocities including summary executions, arbitrary detentions, torture, and rape;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation continues its military campaign in Chechnya through the use of indiscriminate force, causing further displacement of people from their homes, the deaths of unarmed civilians and widespread suffering;

Whereas this war contributes to ethnic hatred and religious intolerance within the Russian Federation, and could divert much-needed international development assistance, undercut the ability of the international community to trust the Russian Federation as a signatory to international agreements, generate political instability within the Russian Federation, and be a continuing threat to the peace in the region; and

Whereas the Senate again expresses its deep concern over the war and humanitarian tragedy in Chechnya, and its desire for a peaceful and durable settlement to the conflict: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the lack of vigorous and sustained action of most Western governments, including that of the United States, to respond to the conflict in Chechnya could be too easily interpreted by the Government of the Russian Federation as indifference to it and thus allow that government to intensify and expand its military campaign there, further contributing to the suffering of the Chechen people;

(2) the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, is responsible for the conduct of Russian troops in and around Chechnya and has an obligation to ensure compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights norms, including the obligation to prevent present and future atrocities there, and to investigate fully atrocities already committed, and to initiate, where appropriate, prosecutions against those accused;

(3) the Government of the Russian Federation and the leadership of the Chechen Government should immediately cease military operations in Chechnya and seek a negotiated settlement to the conflict there;

(4) the President of the Russian Federation should—

(A) act immediately to end human rights violations by Russian soldiers in Chechnya;

(B) allow immediate, full, and unimpeded access into and around Chechnya international monitors to assess and report on the situation there and to investigate alleged atrocities and war crimes;

(C) allow international humanitarian agencies immediate, full, and unimpeded access to Chechen civilians, including those in refugee, detention, and "filtration" camps, or any other facility where citizens of Chechnya are detained; and

(D) investigate fully atrocities committed in Chechnya, including those alleged in Alkhan-Yurt and Grozny, and initiate, where appropriate, prosecutions against those accused;

(5) the President of the United States of America should—

(A) affirm respect for human rights, democratic rule of law, and international accountability as a foundation of United States foreign policy;

(B) affirm respect for human rights, democratic rule of law, and international accountability as a condition for continued United States-Russian cooperation;

(C) conduct a full and comprehensive review of United States foreign policy toward the Russian Federation with respect to its conduct in Chechnya, and its implications for United States-Russian relations;

(D) promote peace negotiations between the Government of the Russian Federation and the leadership of the Chechen Government through third-party mediation by the OSCE Assistance Group in Chechnya, the United Nations, or other appropriate parties;

(E) publicly and openly support societal forces in the Russian Federation working to preserve democracy there, including empowering human rights activists and promoting programs designed to strengthen the independent media, trade unions, political parties, and other institutions of a democratic civil society there; and

(F) take further, more tangible steps to demonstrate to the Government of the Russian Federation that the United States strongly condemns its conduct in Chechnya and its unwillingness to find a just political solution to the conflict there, including—

(i) sponsoring a Resolution at the 56th annual meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, expressing the Commission's serious concern about reports of very grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law in Chechnya, and including provisions, such as the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry, to investigate accusations of violations of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, and other international humanitarian law;

(ii) supporting the appointment of a United Nations Special Rapporteur for Chechnya; and

(iii) placing the war in Chechnya at the top of the agenda of all high-level diplomatic meetings involving the United States and the Russian Federation; and

(6) the President of the United States should not reverse actions taken under paragraph (5)(f) until the Government of the Russian Federation has—

(A) acted forcefully and effectively to end human rights violations by Russian soldiers in Chechnya;

(B) provided full and unimpeded access into and around Chechnya to international monitors to assess and report on the situation there and to investigate alleged atrocities and war crimes;

(C) granted international humanitarian agencies full and unimpeded access to Chechen civilians, including those in refugee, detention, and "filtration" camps, or any other facility where citizens of Chechnya are detained; and

(D) begun to investigate fully atrocities committed in Chechnya, including those alleged in Alkhan-Yurt and Grozny, and initiated, where appropriate, prosecutions against those accused.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise today to draw attention to the continuing war in Chechnya and to remind the international community that our lack of vigorous and sustained action to respond to the conflict there could be too easily interpreted by the Russian Government as indifference to it. We must act to again remind the newly elected President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, that he is responsible for the conduct of Russian troops in and around Chechnya and has an obligation to ensure compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights norms; and we must act to urge the Government of the Russian Federation and the leadership of the Chechen Government to immediately cease military operations in Chechnya and to seek a negotiated just settlement to the conflict there.

Today I am offering a Resolution which urges the Administration to sponsor a Resolution condemning the Russian Federation's conduct in Chechnya at the annual United Nations Human Rights Commission meeting that is currently underway in Geneva, Switzerland, to support the appointment of a U.N. Special Rapporteur for Chechnya, and to place the war in Chechnya at the top of the agenda of all high-level diplomatic meetings involving the United States and the Russian Federation. The United States must publicly and actively affirm respect for human rights, democratic rule of law and international accountability as a foundation of United States policy and not simply pay them lip service.

Sunday night we watched as acting President Vladimir Putin was elected President of the Russian Federation. As the President of a fully sovereign state I do not question President Putin's authority to combat what it perceives as terrorism on its own soil and to ensure the integrity of its borders, nor do I dismiss credible reports of grave violations of human rights on both sides of this war. I do, however, condemn the continuing indiscriminate use of force by the Russian military in Chechnya and the blatant disregard it continues to show for international humanitarian law there.

Last month the Senate Foreign Relations Committee heard evidence and testimony reporting that Russian forces in Chechnya have caused the deaths of countless thousands of innocent civilians and the displacement of

well over 250,000 innocents; forcibly relocated refugee populations; and committed widespread atrocities including summary executions, arbitrary detentions, torture, and rape. While they claim to have begun to open up access to the region, the Russian government continues to effectively deny international organizations full and unimpeded access into Chechnya to assess and report on the situation there, to investigate alleged atrocities and war crimes, and to provide humanitarian relief.

I am not alone in my concern about the situation in Chechnya. Last November both the House and Senate passed resolutions expressing grave concern regarding the armed conflict in the North Caucasus region of the Russian Federation and condemning the violence in Chechnya. On February 24 of this year, the Senate unanimously agreed to Senate Resolution 262, calling for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Chechnya, and Senate Resolution 261, regarding the detention of the journalist Andrei Babitsky. Finally, just a few weeks ago on March 9, Senate Resolution 269, regarding relations with the Russian Federation given its conduct in Chechnya, was referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

We have all read editorials on Chechnya in the news media written by our own colleagues, witnessed a joint conference on Chechnya by the Commonwealth of Independent States Inter-parliamentary Assembly and the European Parliament, heard claims by a leading Russian human rights activist who is also a member of the Russian Parliament offering fierce criticism of the Russian government's efforts in Chechnya, and listened as just this past week at the annual meeting of the U.N. Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva, Secretary Albright objected to the indiscriminate use of force against civilians in Chechnya and proclaimed that allegations of Russian human rights violations are serious and must be addressed urgently. In a phone call to congratulate President Putin on his victory in the Presidential election, President Clinton expressed his hope that Mr. Putin would carry out impartial and transparent investigations of reported human rights violations in Chechnya and provide prompt and full access for international organizations and the press. But, Mr. President, even after all this commentary, and numerous meetings designed to press the Russians to change course, the situation has changed hardly at all.

I fully support Secretary Albright's decision to address the allegations of gross human rights abuses by Russian soldiers in Chechnya in her address to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, and the President's raising this issue again in his phone call to President Putin, but the grave situation in Chechnya demands that we do more. The annual meeting of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights provides a

major forum for addressing human rights concerns and for expressing international commentary on the human rights performance of all nations. The Government of the Russian Federation must be held accountable for its conduct in Chechnya and should be forced to defend itself against allegations of grave human rights violations there, in the full light of public scrutiny.

The administration should bring a resolution expressing the Commission's serious concern about reports of gross human rights abuses and other violations of humanitarian law in Chechnya, including provisions urging the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate violations of the Geneva Convention and other international humanitarian law. It must also support the appointment of a United Nations Special Rapporteur for Chechnya to assess and report on the situation there, and place the war in Chechnya at the top of the agenda of all high-level diplomatic meetings involving the United States and the Russian Federation.

Mr. President, it is high time the United States expressed its commitment to human rights, democratic rule of law, and international accountability through concrete action. We must send a message to the Russian Federation, as well as the international community, that respect for these important principles will be a condition for continued cooperation with the United States. We must demand concrete action by the Government of the Russian Federation to end human rights violations by Russian soldiers in Chechnya, to investigate, where appropriate, those accused of violations, and to ease the suffering of civilians there. We must not be diverted by verbal commitments by the Russian leadership that never come to fruition. We need to exercise our leadership now. The international community and the people of Chechnya deserve no less.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

LAUNCHING OUR COMMUNITIES' ACCESS TO LOCAL TELEVISION ACT OF 2000

BAUCUS (AND OTHERS)

AMENDMENTS NOS. 2892-2893

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. ROBB) submitted two amendments intended to be proposed by them to the bill (S. 2097) to authorize loan guarantees in order to facilitate access to local television broadcast signals in unserved and underserved areas, and for other purposes; as follows:

AMENDMENT No. 2892

On page 25, line 10, insert after "local television stations" the following: "and related signals (including high-speed Internet access and National Weather Service broadcasts)."

On page 30, strike line 9 and insert the following: "means by which local television broadcast signals, and related signals (including high-speed Internet access and National Weather Service broadcasts)."

On page 33, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

(B) ADDITIONAL PRIORITY.—Among projects receiving a priority under subparagraph (A), the Board should also give an additional priority to projects which also provide related signals (including high-speed Internet access and National Weather Service broadcasts).

On page 33, line 24, strike "(B)" and insert "(C)".

AMENDMENT No. 2893

On page 25, strike line 10 and all that follows through page 33, line 25, and insert the following:

signals of local television stations, and related signals (including high-speed Internet access and National Weather Service broadcasts), for households located in unserved areas and underserved areas.

SEC. 3. LOCAL TELEVISION LOAN GUARANTEE BOARD.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the LOCAL Television Loan Guarantee Board (in this Act referred to as the "Board").

(b) MEMBERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Board shall consist of the following members:

(A) The Secretary of the Treasury, or the designee of the Secretary.

(B) The Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or the designee of the Chairman.

(C) The Secretary of Agriculture, or the designee of the Secretary.

(2) REQUIREMENT AS TO DESIGNEES.—An individual may not be designated a member of the Board under paragraph (1) unless the individual is an officer of the United States pursuant to an appointment by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(c) FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall determine whether or not to approve loan guarantees under this Act. The Board shall make such determinations consistent with the purpose of this Act and in accordance with this subsection and section 4 of this Act.

(2) CONSULTATION AUTHORIZED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out its functions under this Act, the Board shall consult with such departments and agencies of the Federal Government as the Board considers appropriate, including the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Justice, the Department of the Interior, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Trade Commission, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(B) RESPONSE.—A department or agency consulted by the Board under subparagraph (A) shall provide the Board such expertise and assistance as the Board requires to carry out its functions under this Act.

(3) APPROVAL BY MAJORITY VOTE.—The determination of the Board to approve a loan guarantee under this Act shall be by a vote of a majority of the Board.

SEC. 4. APPROVAL OF LOAN GUARANTEES.

(a) AUTHORITY TO APPROVE LOAN GUARANTEES.—Subject to the provisions of this section and consistent with the purpose of this Act, the Board may approve loan guarantees under this Act.

(b) REGULATIONS.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—The Administrator (as defined in section 5 of this Act), under the di-

rection of and for approval by the Board, shall prescribe regulations to implement the provisions of this Act and shall do so not later than 120 days after funds authorized to be appropriated under section 10 of this Act have been appropriated in a bill signed into law.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The regulations prescribed under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) set forth the form of any application to be submitted to the Board under this Act;

(B) set forth time periods for the review and consideration by the Board of applications to be submitted to the Board under this Act, and for any other action to be taken by the Board with respect to such applications;

(C) provide appropriate safeguards against the evasion of the provisions of this Act;

(D) set forth the circumstances in which an applicant, together with any affiliate of an applicant, shall be treated as an applicant for a loan guarantee under this Act;

(E) include requirements that appropriate parties submit to the Board any documents and assurances that are required for the administration of the provisions of this Act; and

(F) include such other provisions consistent with the purpose of this Act as the Board considers appropriate.

(3) CONSTRUCTION.—(A) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit the Board from requiring, to the extent and under circumstances considered appropriate by the Board, that affiliates of an applicant be subject to certain obligations of the applicant as a condition to the approval or maintenance of a loan guarantee under this Act.

(B) If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or entity or circumstance is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act, or the application of such provision to such person or entity or circumstance other than those as to which it is held invalid, shall not be affected thereby.

(c) AUTHORITY LIMITED BY APPROPRIATIONS ACTS.—The Board may approve loan guarantees under this Act only to the extent provided for in advance in appropriations Acts. The Board may delegate to the Administrator (as defined in section 5 of this Act) the authority to approve loan guarantees of up to \$20,000,000. To the extent the Administrator is delegated such authority, the Administrator shall comply with the terms of this Act applicable to the Board.

(d) REQUIREMENTS AND CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO APPROVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall utilize the underwriting criteria developed under subsection (g), and any relevant information provided by the departments and agencies with which the Board consults under section 3, to determine which loans may be eligible for a loan guarantee under this Act.

(2) PREREQUISITES.—In addition to meeting the underwriting criteria under paragraph (1), a loan may not be guaranteed under this Act unless—

(A) the loan is made to finance the acquisition, improvement, enhancement, construction, deployment, launch, or rehabilitation of the means by which local television broadcast signals, and related signals (including high-speed Internet access and National Weather Service broadcasts), will be delivered to an unserved area or underserved area;

(B) the proceeds of the loan will not be used for operating expenses;

(C) the proposed project, as determined by the Board in consultation with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, is not likely to have a substantial adverse impact on competition that outweighs the benefits of improving access to