

Minnesota and across the country, whose lives are being traumatized by the unaffordable costs of their prescription medicines. Their economic security, their emotional well-being, and their physical health are being threatened, even ruined, by ever-increasing costs over which they have no control.

I respectfully request your support for this resolution when it comes to the floor for a vote.

SENATE RESOLUTION 75—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING MAY 13, 2001, AS "NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY WEEK"

Mr. LOTT (for Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CRAIG, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. HELMS, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. KERRY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 75

Whereas biotechnology is increasingly important to the research and development of medical, agricultural, industrial, and environmental products;

Whereas public awareness, education, and understanding of biotechnology is essential for the responsible application and regulation of this new technology;

Whereas biotechnology has been responsible for breakthroughs and achievements that have benefited people for centuries and contributed to increasing the quality of human health care through the development of vaccines, antibiotics, and other drugs;

Whereas biotechnology is central to research for cures to diseases such as cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, heart and lung disease, Alzheimer's disease, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and innumerable other medical ailments;

Whereas biotechnology contributes to crop yields and farm productivity, and enhances the quality, value, and suitability of crops for food and other uses that are critical to the agriculture of the United States;

Whereas biotechnology promises environmental benefits including protection of water quality, conservation of topsoil, improvement of waste management techniques, reduction of chemical pesticide usage, production of renewable energy and biobase products, and cleaner manufacturing processes;

Whereas biotechnology contributes to the success of the United States as the global leader in research and development, and international commerce;

Whereas biotechnology will be an important catalyst for creating more high-skilled jobs throughout the 21st century and will lead the way in reinvigorating rural economies and;

Whereas it is important for all Americans to understand the beneficial role biotechnology plays in improving quality of life and protecting the environment: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning May 13, 2001, as "National Biotechnology Week"; and  
(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise today with Senators DODD, CRAPO,

KENNEDY, INHOFE, FEINSTEIN, CRAIG, MURRAY, SPECTOR, EDWARDS, MIKULSKI, HELMS, BIDEN, and KERRY to introduce a Senate Resolution declaring May 13–20, "National Biotechnology Week."

There have been phenomenal advancements in science over the last few years that are allowing us to improve health care, increase crop yields, reduce the use of pesticides, and replace costly industrial processes involving harsh chemicals with cheaper, safer, biological processes. These advancements have occurred due to the hard work and diligence of scientists and researchers in United States, and all around the world, who have spent their lives promoting and perfecting the practice of biotechnology.

Biotechnology is the use of biological processes to solve problems or make useful products. While the use of biological processes for these purposes is not new, the use of recombinant DNA technology and our greater understanding of the role of genetics in our lives have led to the creation of hundreds of products and therapeutic treatments with a wide variety of health, agricultural, and environmental benefits.

Through the analysis of genes and gene products, we will soon be able to forecast disease and create preventative therapies that will drastically reduce the cost of health care by limiting the number of drug treatments necessary and reducing the amount of time patients must be in the hospital. This same technology will enable us to refocus health care on promoting health and preventing disease rather than restoring health in the sick and treating the symptoms and effects of full-blown illness in our nation's health care clinics.

With the publication of the human genome sequence, we are now one step closer to understanding the mechanisms of disease. The identification of which genes are activated, how, and the determination of the functional characteristics of their RNA and protein products are frontiers that remain for our next generation of scientists. However, we are quickly moving towards those frontiers, shedding light on the complex functions of our own bodies that have been shrouded in mystery and speculation for centuries.

In the area of agriculture, the benefits and potential for biotechnology are no less stunning—allowing us to increase the yield of commodities while reducing the use of pesticides. As the world population continues to balloon and the amount of arable land available decreases, we will increasingly look to biotechnology to meet the needs of people everywhere. Researchers in industry and academia are also exploring the possibilities for genetic traits that will yield maximum production, even in the face of inclement weather.

They are also looking for ways to use biotechnology to create novel plants that will provide food that has value

added traits such as reduced fat content and increased levels of vitamins and minerals that our diets here in the United States or those in the developing world may be deficient in. The potential for the product known as "golden rice," which could substantially combat blindness and anemia in the third world, is immense. In the next ten to twenty years, we will likely be able to grow vaccines in plants, eliminating the difficulties of distribution in many areas of the world.

Industrial biotechnology also shows tremendous potential for reducing the pollution and waste generated through industrial production. Through the use of enzymes and other biological components, industries are able to minimize material and energy inputs while simultaneously maximizing renewable resources. An added benefit of those processes is that they limit the production of hazardous pollutants and wastes while producing recyclables or biodegradable products. Industrial biotechnology has been used to create environmentally friendly laundry detergents with fewer phosphates and paper production treatments that reduce the discharge of chlorine. Industrial enzymes have also been used to create ethanol and other alternative fuels from corn and biomass.

Aside from the environmental benefits of both agricultural and industrial biotechnology, researchers have used this technology to actually solve environmental problems and clean up environmental disasters. Through the use of bioremediation, the use of living organisms to degrade toxic waste into harmless byproducts, researchers and environmentalists have been able to clean polluted coastlines and areas where fuels have leaked into the soil. Cities and towns throughout the world are now using microbes to remove pollutants from their sewage systems, and the EPA is now using bioremediation to clean up some of our nation's most serious waste sites.

With all of these marvelous benefits, there is no doubt that biotechnology is touching our lives and improving our world. But, along with this technology comes the responsibility to understand and carefully evaluate it. If there is to be a future for this technology, and we are to fully realize its benefits, elected officials and the public must be informed and engaged about the basics of technology itself and its incredible benefits.

This is why my colleagues and I are pleased to introduce this resolution declaring May 13–20, 2001, as "National Biotechnology Week." It is our hope that public officials, community leaders, researchers, professors, and school teachers across the country will take this week to actively promote understanding of biotechnology in their communities and their classrooms.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 352. Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CHAFEE, and Mrs. BOXER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 350, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to promote the cleanup and reuse of brownfields, to provide financial assistance for brownfields revitalization, to enhance State response programs, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 352. Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. CHAFEE, and Mrs. BOXER) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 350, to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to promote the cleanup and reuse of brownfields, to provide financial assistance for brownfields revitalization, to enhance State response programs, and for other purposes; as follows:

Beginning on page 57, strike line 24 and all that follows through page 58, line 3, and insert the following:

“(ii)(I) is contaminated by a controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802));

“(II)(aa) is contaminated by petroleum or a petroleum product excluded from the definition of ‘hazardous substance’ under section 101; and

“(bb) is a site determined by the Administrator or the State, as appropriate, to be—

“(AA) of relatively low risk, as compared with other petroleum-only sites in the State; and

“(BB) a site for which there is no viable responsible party and which will be assessed, investigated, or cleaned up by a person that is not potentially liable for cleaning up the site; and

“(cc) is not subject to any order issued under section 9003(h) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6991b(h)); or

“(III) is mine-scarred land.”

On page 65, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

“(4) INSURANCE.—A recipient of a grant or loan awarded under subsection (b) or (c) that performs a characterization, assessment, or remediation of a brownfield site may use a portion of the grant or loan to purchase insurance for the characterization, assessment, or remediation of that site.

On page 67, line 16, before the period, insert the following: “, including threats in areas in which there is a greater-than-normal incidence of diseases or conditions (including cancer, asthma, or birth defects) that may be associated with exposure to hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants”.

On page 68, between lines 16 and 17, insert the following:

“(J) The extent to which a grant would address or facilitate the identification and reduction of threats to the health or welfare of children, pregnant women, minority or low-income communities, or other sensitive populations.

On page 70, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

“(4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency shall submit to Congress a report that provides a description of the management of the program (including a description of the allocation of funds under this section).

On page 71, strike lines 15 through 17 and insert the following:

“(k) EFFECT ON FEDERAL LAWS.—Nothing in this section affects any liability or response authority under any Federal law, including—

“(1) this Act (including the last sentence of section 101(14));

“(2) the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.);

“(3) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.);

“(4) the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.); and

“(5) the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.).

“(1) FUNDING.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$200,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2006.

“(2) USE OF CERTAIN FUNDS.—Of the amount made available under paragraph (1), \$50,000,000, or, if the amount made available is less than \$200,000,000, 25 percent of the amount made available, shall be used for site characterization, assessment, and remediation of facilities described in section 101(39)(D)(ii)(II).”

On page 93, line 4, before “develop”, insert “purchase insurance or”.

On page 94, line 11, strike “and”.

On page 94, line 14, strike the period at the end and insert “; and”.

On page 94, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

“(iii) a mechanism by which—

“(I) a person that is or may be affected by a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant at a brownfield site located in the community in which the person works or resides may request the conduct of a site assessment; and

“(II) an appropriate State official shall consider and appropriately respond to a request under subclause (I).

On page 97, line 7, after “Administrator”, insert “, after consultation with the State,”.

On page 97, line 18, after the period, insert the following: “Consultation with the State shall not limit the ability of the Administrator to make this determination.”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 25, 2001. The purpose of this hearing will be to review agricultural trade issues.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, April 25, 2001, immediately following the nomination hearing, on status of labor issues in airline industry.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee, on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, April 25, 2001, at 9:30 a.m. on the nomination of Brenda Becker to be Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (DOC), and Michael Jackson to be Deputy Secretary for the Department of Transportation.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 25, 2001, to hear testimony on Medicare and SSI Benefits: Turning off the Spigot to Prisoners, Fugitives, the Deceased and other ineligible.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 25, 2001, at 10:30 a.m. and at 2 p.m., to hold two hearings.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, April 25, 2001, at 10 a.m., in SD226.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 25, 2001, at 2 p.m., to hold a closed briefing on intelligence matters.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOREIGN COMMERCE AND TOURISM

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs, Foreign Commerce and Tourism of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, April 25, 2001, at 2:30 p.m., on west coast gas prices.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 25, 2001, to conduct a hearing on “HUD’s Program, Budget and Management Priorities for FY 2002.”

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