

Whereas, More than 80 United States Senators, including Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, signed letters of support for this legislation; and

Whereas, The bill now before the 107th Congress modernizes the railroad retirement system for its 748,000 beneficiaries nationwide, including over 9,000 Colorado citizens; and

Whereas, Railroad management, labor, and retiree organizations have agreed to support this legislation; and

Whereas, This legislation provides tax relief to freight railroads, Amtrak, and commuter lines; and

Whereas, This legislation provides benefit improvements for surviving spouses of rail workers who currently suffer deep cuts in income when the rail worker retiree dies; and

Whereas, No outside contributions from taxpayers are needed to implement the changes called for in this legislation; and

Whereas, All changes will be paid for from within the railroad industry, including a full share to be paid by active employees; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixth-third General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:

That the Colorado General Assembly urges the United States Congress to enact the Railroad Retirement and Survivors Improvement Act in the 107th Congress. Be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of the Colorado Congressional delegation.

POM-110. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to increasing funding for agricultural conservation programs; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 134

Whereas, since the adoption of the 1985 Farm Bill and subsequent iterations of federal farm legislation in 1990 and 1996, U.S. agriculture policy has included major voluntary conservation incentive programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP); and

Whereas, the most popular of the federal agricultural conservation programs in Louisiana have been the WRP with 368 approved easements on 137,632 acres, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) with 4,803 approved contracts on 494,006 acres, the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) with 168 contracts on 12,900 acres, and the Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) with all available funds having been allocated; and

Whereas, Louisiana has the most easement acres enrolled in the WRP of all participating states, 407 pending applications on over 102,000 acres, and a potential WRP enrollment demand of up to 474,000 acres; and

Whereas, Louisiana is second only to Texas in the number of EQIP contracts with an estimated potential demand of three to four times the allocation currently available and only one out of every four applications for assistance able to be funded; and

Whereas, the demand for participation in WHIP and FIP also exceeds available funds; and

Whereas, CRP, which benefits Louisiana primarily through improving upstream water quality and providing nesting habitats for waterfowl and other migratory birds, and these other agricultural programs have profound beneficial impacts on wildlife habitat and water quality in our state, including ameliorating the nutrient loading of rivers

and streams that contribute to the annual occurrence of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico, while aiding rural communities and benefiting farmers; and

Whereas, agricultural conservation incentive programs are an efficient and effective use of tax dollars to restore habitats and prevent the degradation of soil, water, and habitat over a long term and, with WRP and CRP, overproduction of crops and direct subsidy payments are reduced; and

Whereas, the Lower Mississippi Valley Initiative (LMVI), a multi-state partnership to address agriculturally based environment stewardship consisting of producers, universities, natural resource agencies, and conservation organizations in Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee formed to inform the process of developing the conservation provisions of the next farm bill, has recognized the importance to the environment, the farming community, and the future of agriculture of strategically enlarging and enhancing farm bill conservation programs; and

Whereas, although agricultural conservation programs authorized by the 1996 farm bill have reached their acreage and funding caps, additional funding has not been included in the proposed FY 2002 budget; and

Whereas, legislation has been introduced in Congress to expand agricultural conservation programs to meet the needs of farmers and the environment until the next farm bill is enacted. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the president of the United States and memorializes the Congress of the United States to expand and fund federal agricultural conservation programs, including the Conservation Reserve, Wetlands Reserve, Environmental Quality Incentives, Wildlife Habitat Improvement, and Forestry Incentives Programs. Be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the Congress of the United States.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself and Mr. DAYTON):

S. 1058. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for farmers and the producers of biodiesel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAYH:

S. 1059. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that certain postsecondary educational benefits provided by an employer to children of employees shall be excludable from gross income as a scholarship; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAYH:

S. 1060. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that certain postsecondary educational benefits provided by an employer to children of employees shall be excludable from gross income as part of an educational assistance program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 1061. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire Fem Lake and the surrounding watershed in the States of Ken-

tucky and Tennessee for addition to Cumberland Gap National Historic Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. JOHN-SON, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 1062. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to promote organ donation and facilitate interstate linkage and 24-hour access to State donor registries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (by request):

S. 1063. A bill to amend chapter 72 of title 38, United States Code, to improve the administration of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. KERRY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. ENSIGN, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1064. A bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to provide certain relief from liability for small businesses; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (for acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. Res. 113. A resolution congratulating the Los Angeles Lakers on their second consecutive National Basketball Association championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. LOTT):

S. Con. Res. 51. A concurrent resolution recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and expressing the sense of Congress that history be regarded as a means of understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 127

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 127, a bill to give American companies, American workers, and American ports the opportunity to compete in the United States cruise market.

S. 170

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both military retired pay by reason of their years of military service and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability.

S. 312

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 312, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief

for farmers and fishermen, and for other purposes.

S. 318

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 318, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance.

S. 321

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 321, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide families of disabled children with the opportunity to purchase coverage under the medicaid program for such children, and for other purposes.

S. 345

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 345, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to strike the limitation that permits interstate movement of live birds, for the purpose of fighting, to States in which animal fighting is lawful.

S. 347

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 347, a bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to improve the processes for listing, recovery planning, and delisting, and for other purposes.

S. 392

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 392, a bill to grant a Federal Charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated, and for other purposes.

S. 454

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 454, a bill to provide permanent funding for the Bureau of Land Management Payment in Lieu of Taxes program and for other purposes.

S. 530

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 530, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a 5-year extension of the credit for producing electricity from wind.

S. 543

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 543, a bill to provide for equal coverage of mental health benefits with respect to health insurance coverage unless comparable limitations are imposed on medical and surgical benefits.

S. 550

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr.

AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 550, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to provide equitable access for foster care and adoption services for Indian children in tribal areas.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 556, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce emissions from electric powerplants, and for other purposes.

S. 583

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 583, a bill to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to improve nutrition assistance for working families and the elderly, and for other purposes.

S. 611

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 611, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide that the reduction in social security benefits which are required in the case of spouses and surviving spouses who are also receiving certain Government pensions shall be equal to the amount by which two-thirds of the total amount of the combined monthly benefit (before reduction) and monthly pension exceeds \$1,200, adjusted for inflation.

S. 651

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 651, a bill to provide for the establishment of an assistance program for health insurance consumers.

S. 654

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore, increase, and make permanent the exclusion from gross income for amounts received under qualified group legal services plans.

S. 657

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON), and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 657, a bill to authorize funding for the National 4-H Program Centennial Initiative.

S. 688

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 688, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, relating to the airport noise and access review program.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to modernize the financing of the railroad retirement system and to

provide enhanced benefits to employees and beneficiaries.

S. 718

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 718, a bill to direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish a program to support research and training in methods of detecting the use of performance-enhancing drugs by athletes, and for other purposes.

S. 721

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 721, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a Nurse Corps and recruitment and retention strategies to address the nursing shortage, and for other purposes.

S. 805

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 805, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research with respect to various forms of muscular dystrophy, including Duchenne, Becker, limb girdle, congenital, facioscapulohumeral, myotonic, oculopharyngeal, distal, and emery-dreifuss muscular dystrophies.

S. 824

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 824, a bill to establish an informatics grant program for hospitals and skilled nursing facilities.

S. 837

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 837, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a safe harbor for determining that certain individuals are not employees.

S. 847

At the request of Mr. DAYTON, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) were added as cosponsors of S. 847, a bill to impose tariff-rate quotas on certain casein and milk protein concentrates.

S. 859

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) were added as cosponsors of S. 859, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a mental health community education program, and for other purposes.

S. 860

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 860, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the treatment of certain expenses of rural letter carriers.

S. 871

At the request of Mr. CLELAND, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 871, a bill to amend chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the computation of annuities for air traffic controllers in a similar manner as the computation of annuities for law enforcement officers and firefighters.

S. 917

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 917, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received on account of claims based on certain unlawful discrimination and to allow income averaging for backpay and frontpay awards received on account of such claims, and for other purposes.

S. 940

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 940, a bill to leave no child behind.

S. 1014

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1014, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance privacy protections for individuals, to prevent fraudulent misuse of the Social Security account number, and for other purposes.

S. 1030

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1030, a bill to improve health care in rural areas by amending title XVIII of the Social Security Act and the Public Health Service Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1037

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1037, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize disability retirement to be granted posthumously for members of the Armed Forces who die in the line of duty while on active duty, and for other purposes.

S. 1041

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1041, a bill to establish a program for an information clearinghouse to increase public access to defibrillation in schools.

S. 1050

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1050, a bill to protect infants who are born alive.

S. CON. RES. 35

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S.

Con. Res. 35, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Lebanon, Syria, and Iran should allow representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit the four Israelis, Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, Omar Souad, and Elchanan Tannenbaum, presently held by Hezbollah forces in Lebanon.

S. CON. RES. 37

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 37, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress on the importance of promoting electronic commerce, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 45

At the request of Mr. FITZGERALD, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 45, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1958 should be fully enforced so as to prevent needless suffering of animals.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself and Mr. DAYTON):

S. 1058. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for farmers and the producers of biodiesel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, the debate over energy use in America has gripped our national attention for well over a year. A week doesn't go by that you don't pick up a newspaper or magazine and read at least one story about our Nation's domestic or foreign energy crisis. One issue in the energy debate that has caught my attention and that of farmers in my State is renewable fuels.

The technology to convert agricultural crops into combustible fuel, suitable for use in modern diesel and gasoline engines, has existed for more than 100 years. I believe this process continues to hold great potential for America. The production and use of biofuels offers our Nation a safe, renewable source of energy for travel and transport, not to mention the long-term economic benefits for farmers and consumers.

That is why I rise today to introduce the Biodiesel Renewable Fuels Act. I am pleased that Senator DAYTON has joined with me as my lead cosponsor. This bill encourages the use of biodiesel by establishing a tax credit for manufacturers who produce a blend of conventional diesel and soybean or oilseed additives. By reducing the diesel fuel excise tax, suppliers will receive a 3-cent-per-gallon credit for using a diesel blend that contains at least 2 percent biodiesel. This tax credit is very similar to the existing tax incentive for ethanol, a biofuel made from corn-

based products. I believe a tax incentive for soy-based biodiesel will increase domestic production and capture the agricultural, environmental and economical benefits associated with using this renewable source of energy.

Most Americans don't realize that farm communities sit atop a vast and virtually untapped source of renewable fuels in the form of agriculture crops. Farmers in Arkansas are interested in developing new markets for soybean and oilseed products. In Arkansas for example, farmers grew 94 million bushels, or 2.5 million metric tons, of soybeans last year. Nationally, farmers produced 2.6 billion bushels of soybeans in 1999-2000, equal to 72 million metric tons. The oil derived from soybeans and other oilseed crops can be refined into a diesel additive or diesel alternative. According to a USDA study released in 1996, an annual market for biodiesel of 100 million gallons in the United States would raise the price of soybeans by up to seven cents per bushel. Given the recent U.S. soybean crop, that kind of annual market would result in more than \$168 million directly related to the use of soy-based biodiesel.

Producing biodiesel domestically also means that more money stays in the U.S. Instead of purchasing more foreign petroleum, manufacturers can reduce their dependence on overseas oil by adding biodiesel blends for use in existing diesel engines. If domestic companies are encouraged to develop the infrastructure necessary to produce more biodiesel, the economic effect will be more U.S. jobs, lower prices for the consumer and larger markets for farmers.

Developing markets for agricultural commodities and reducing our dependence on foreign oil is good, but there are environmental benefits as well. It is well documented that the burning of biofuels in combustion engines reduces the emissions of harmful greenhouse gases and particulate matter. In fact, biodiesel passes some of the Environmental Protection Agency's most stringent emissions and health standards for fuel additives and fuel alternatives. This becomes important when you consider the EPA's recent announcement that California should continue to use ethanol as a fuel oxygenate to improve air quality. As more cities and States are faced with having to improve the quality of their air, I believe biofuels are a sensible alternative to existing oxygenates which are not as friendly to the environment or human health.

If using biodiesel improves air quality, reduces our dependence on foreign oil and provides a value-added market for soybean and oilseed crops, then we should support legislation to further development of this renewable source of fuel. My bill is good for farmers, it's good for consumers and it's good for