

States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from State laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

S. 300

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 300, a bill to award a congressional gold medal to Jackie Robinson (posthumously), in recognition of his many contributions to the Nation, and to express the sense of Congress that there should be a national day in recognition of Jackie Robinson.

S. 397

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 397, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance taxes paid by employees and self-employed individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 486

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. 486, 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. 504

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 504, a bill to establish academies for teachers and students of American history and civics and a national alliance of teachers of American history and civics, and for other purposes.

S. 537

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 537, a bill to ensure the availability of spectrum to amateur radio operators.

S. 656

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 656, a bill to provide for the adjustment of status of certain nationals of Liberia to that of lawful permanent residence.

S. 822

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 822, a bill to create a 3-year pilot program that makes small, non-profit child care businesses eligible for SBA 504 loans.

S. 875

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 875, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an income tax credit for the provision of homeownership and community development, and for other purposes.

S. 882

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from West Vir-

ginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 882, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide improvements in tax administration and taxpayer safe-guards, and for other purposes.

S. 950

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 950, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 970

At the request of Mr. DODD, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 970, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to preserve jobs and production activities in the United States.

S. 982

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 982, a bill to halt Syrian support for terrorism, end its occupation of Lebanon, stop its development of weapons of mass destruction, cease its illegal importation of Iraqi oil, and hold Syria accountable for its role in the Middle East, and for other purposes.

S. 985

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 985, a bill to amend the Federal Law Enforcement Pay Reform Act of 1990 to adjust the percentage differentials payable to Federal law enforcement officers in certain high-cost areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1000

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1000, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to revise the age and service requirements for eligibility to receive retired pay for non-regular service; to provide TRICARE eligibility for members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve and their families; to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers a credit against income tax with respect to employees who participate in the military reserve components and to allow a comparable credit for participating reserve component self-employed individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1046

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1046, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to preserve localism, to foster and promote the diversity of television programming, to foster and promote competition, and to prevent excessive concentration of ownership of the nation's television broadcast stations.

S. 1126

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 1126, a bill to establish the Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration, to create the Native American Small Business Development Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1141

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1141, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to increase penalties for individuals who operate motor vehicles while intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol.

S. 1218

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAU) were added as cosponsors of S. 1218, a bill to provide for Presidential support and coordination of interagency ocean science programs and development and coordination of a comprehensive and integrated United States research and monitoring program.

S. CON. RES. 53

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 53, a concurrent resolution honoring and congratulating chambers of commerce for their efforts that contribute to the improvement of communities and the strengthening of local and regional economies.

S. RES. 109

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 109, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to polio.

S. RES. 169

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 169, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States Postal Service should issue a postage stamp commemorating Anne Frank.

AMENDMENT NO. 934

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 934 proposed to S. 1, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements in the medicare program, to provide prescription drug coverage under the medicare program, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 934

At the request of Mr. MILLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 934 proposed to S. 1, supra.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BROWBACK (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. NICKLES):

S. 1303. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and otherwise revise the Medicare Program to reform the method of paying for covered drugs, drug administration services, and chemotherapy support services; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I rise today for the purpose of introducing the Quality Cancer Care Preservation Act. This bill is aimed at sending reinforcements to those on the front lines of the war on cancer. While there are millions of researchers, policy makers, and advocates fighting against cancer around the country, we cannot forget that the real battles are won in the cancer center, where the care is delivered. The war on cancer will be won by nurses, patients, and physicians—one survivor at a time.

For years, bureaucrats at Medicare have overpaid for cancer drugs, but underpaid for cost of administering the therapy. Unfortunately, many in Washington have advocated fixing the overpayment for the drugs and ignored the underpayment for administering the drug. Well, as any cancer patient knows, while cancer therapies may be a miracle, it is the oncology nurses that are the angels. That is why my colleagues and I are offering this legislation, which we believe will bring about fair reimbursement for chemotherapy drugs and administration.

I know that the managers of this bill have committed to work with, and are working with the cancer community to find a reasonable solution to this issue in the context of the Medicare bill that is on the floor. On behalf of cancer patients around the country, I thank my colleague for their dedication. I also thank my friend from Oklahoma for his comments during the markup of S. 1 and for his dedication to ensure proper reimbursement for cancer treatment.

My hope in introducing this bill at this time is that it can serve to help my colleagues in their pursuit of fair reimbursement.

With that, I thank my colleagues.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 1304. A bill to improve the health of women through the establishment of Offices of Women's Health within the Department of Health and Human Services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Women's Health Office Act with my colleague, Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE. The Women's Health Office Act authorizes and strengthens women's health offices or officers at Federal health agencies in the Department of Health and Human Services. This legislation will make sure that men and women get equal benefit from Federal investments in medical research and health care services.

Today, doctors, scientists, Members of Congress, and the American public know that women and men have different bodies and different health care

needs. Diseases like ovarian cancer and endometriosis affect only women. High blood pressure is two to three times more common in women than men. Women are four times more likely to develop osteoporosis than men. The number of uninsured women has grown three times faster than the number of uninsured men over the past 5 years. Women make three-quarters of all health care spending decisions for themselves and their families.

For decades, despite these differences, men's health needs set the standard for our health care system and our health care research agenda. Women were systematically excluded from medical research because decisionmakers said that our hormone cycles complicated the results. One study on heart disease risk factors was conducted on 13,000 men—and not 1 woman. But the results of studies like these were applied to both men and women. This neglect put women's health and lives at risk.

That's why my colleagues and I took action. More than a decade ago, I worked with OLYMPIA SNOWE, TED KENNEDY, TOM HARKIN, and other women in the House to get an Office of Research on Women's Health at the National Institutes of Health, NIH. In 1993, I worked with these same women and Galahads in Congress to make sure that the women's health office would stay at NIH by putting it into law.

This office at NIH has made a real difference in how women are treated for certain illnesses. We now know that men and women often have different symptoms before a heart attack. Women's symptoms are more subtle, like nausea and back pain. Knowing these systems means women can get to the hospital sooner and can be treated earlier. That's turning women's health research into life-saving information.

I am proud that there are now women's health offices or officers at nearly every Federal health agency at the Department of Health and Human Services. Like the one at NIH, women's health offices mean that women's health needs are always at the table. These offices at the Food and Drug Administration, (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (CDC), and the Health Resources and Services Administration, (HRSA) make sure women are included in clinical drug trials, reach out to low-income and minority women to make sure they are getting vaccines and cancer screenings, and work with health care providers to put research on women's health into practice. Recent questions about the risks and benefits of mammography and hormone replacement therapy remind us that women's health offices are as important as ever.

Right now, many of these offices and the important work they do could be eliminated or cut back without the consent of Congress. That is why this bill is so important. This bill would put women's health offices into our Nation's law books.

The Women's Health Office Act does more than protect the status quo. It keeps us moving forward on women's health. It gives women's health offices a clear, consistent framework throughout the Department. By writing them into law, it gives women's health offices the stature they need to be strong, effective advocates for women's health within the Federal Government. This legislation coordinates women's health activities within each agency, to identify needs and set goals. The women's Health Office Act centralizes overall coordination throughout the Department of Health and Human Services, to clarify lines of accountability and chart a clear course on women's health. Finally, it authorizes funding for these women's health offices or officers, to make sure that we put our Nation's priorities in the Federal checkbook as well as the Federal law books.

This bill has strong bipartisan support. During the 107th Congress, the Women's Health Office Act passed the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, HELP, Committee unanimously as part of a comprehensive women's health bill that would have expanded women's health research and improved women's access to health care. It also passed the House of Representatives overwhelmingly during the 107th Congress. I am disappointed that Congress was not able to pass this bipartisan legislation, but I am hopeful that last year's momentum will help us get to women's Health Office Act signed into law this year.

I would like to thank Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE for leading the way on this important legislation. As Dean of the Senate women, I will continue to fight to get this bill signed into law and to make progress to improve the health of American women.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. BREAUX, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. SMITH):

S. 1305. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the treatment of certain motor vehicle dealer transitional assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am introducing legislation today with Senators HATCH, BAUCUS, CONRAD, BREAUX, SNOWE, LINCOLN and SMITH that will provide thousands of our Nations' automobile dealerships with needed additional flexibility to re-invest franchise termination payments so that taxes are not unfairly imposed. This legislation has bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate and was included in the Chairman's modified mark in last year's small business tax bill.

At the end of 2000, GM notified their 2,801 Oldsmobile dealers that they were phasing out the 100 year-old Oldsmobile brand and its complete line-up of vehicles shortly after the dealers had signed a new agreement with a commitment of up to five years on this

product line. With this surprising elimination of the Oldsmobile product line, many family-owned dealerships are facing an increased threat to the viability of other product lines at their dealerships and, in some cases, a complete loss of their business.

GM is in the process of compensating these dealers to minimize the impact, as many of these dealers are facing a significant and previously unforeseeable financial burden, through no fault of their own, in connection with their efforts to continue in the automobile retail business. The legislation we are introducing today seeks to lessen that burden by allowing these dealerships up to two years to re-invest their GM's financial assistance payments in other dealership properties and defer payment of taxes under IRC Section 1031. Under current law, the dealerships would only have 6 months to identify and purchase a similar business or property. This time restriction would make it difficult, if not impossible, for most of these businesses to re-invest these payments because, as is the case with most franchises, there are very few businesses or investments that are similar enough to be considered "like kind" and hence qualify for tax deferral. The failure to do so results in the owner paying taxes on the payment, even if they are ultimately re-invested in a business that would have qualified. Since the dealers did not want to forfeit their rights to sell Oldsmobiles, this seems like a particularly harsh result.

In rural States like New Mexico, family-owned businesses supply the majority of jobs and services in the State. This legislation gives these small businesses an opportunity to continue their family-owned businesses and, at the same time, give a boost to the local economy. I look forward to working with my colleagues on advancing this legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1305

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subtitle A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, in the case of a taxpayer who elects the application of this section and who was a party to a motor vehicle sales and service agreement with a motor vehicle manufacturer who announced in December 2000 that it would phase-out the motor vehicle brand to which such agreement relates—

(1) amounts received by such taxpayer from such manufacturer on account of the termination of such agreement (hereafter in this section referred to as "termination payment") are considered to be received for property used in the trade or business of a motor vehicle retail sales and service dealership, and

(2) to the extent such termination payment is reinvested in property used in a motor ve-

hicle retail sales and service dealership located within the United States, such property shall qualify as like-kind replacement property to which section 1031 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall apply with the following modifications:

(A) Such section shall be applied without regard to subparagraphs (A) and (B)(ii) of subsection (a)(3).

(B) The period described in section 1031(a)(3)(B) of such Code shall be applied by substituting "2 years" for "180 days".

(b) RULES FOR ELECTION.—

(1) FORM OF ELECTION.—The taxpayer shall make an election under this section in such form and manner as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe and shall include in such election the amount of the termination payment received, the identification of the replacement property purchased, and such other information as the Secretary may prescribe.

(2) ELECTION ON AMENDED RETURN.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall permit an election under this section on an amended tax return for taxable years beginning before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law or rule of law, the statutory period for the assessment for any deficiency attributable to any termination payment gain shall be extended until 3 years after the date the Secretary of the Treasury is notified by the taxpayer of the like-kind replacement property or an intention not to replace.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply to amounts received after December 12, 2000, in taxable years ending after such date.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I am proud to support Senator BINGAMAN's legislation to ensure equitable tax treatment for Oldsmobile dealers impacted by General Motors' sudden decision to eliminate the Oldsmobile from its product line. General Motors did agree to partially compensate Oldsmobile dealers for their loss.

Senator BINGAMAN's bill ensures that like-kind exchange treatment, which defers the gain on the exchange of business or investment property until it is ultimately sold, is also available for motor vehicle dealers who receive payments when the brand of automobile they carry is eliminated by the manufacturer. The proposal allows such re-invested payments to be treated as a like-kind exchange of property if exchanged within 2 years from receipt of the payments, thus deferring the tax consequences. As such, the proposal encourages capital investment by recognizing that a longer period of time is required for dealers to obtain a new franchise or establish a new car sales business.

The manufacturer, not the automobile dealer, makes the unilateral decision to eliminate vehicle brands. Nonetheless, the dealer is the one who invests years of hard work in bringing a particular brand to his or her local community. When a manufacturer decides to eliminate a brand, many family-owned dealerships face a complete loss of business as well as an increased threat to the viability of other brands located in the same facility.

Approximately one-third of the 2,801 Oldsmobile dealers across the country

are expected to reinvest the GM payments into another franchise or other retail motor vehicle sales business. Many of the 27 Oldsmobile dealers in Montana have expressed their interest in reinvesting the GM payments they received, if this legislation becomes law. These Montanans have been stripped of a source of income at a time when the economy is not too forgiving.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

S. 1306. A bill to introduce the efforts of the California Missions Foundation to restore and repair the Spanish colonial and mission-era missions in the State of California and to preserve the artworks and artifacts of these missions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased to be introducing a bill today that will provide the necessary resources to protect the 21 historic California missions for future generations. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by my colleague from California, Senator FEINSTEIN.

The California missions represent some of our Nation's oldest historical treasures. Furthermore, they are important illustrations of the historical, cultural and architectural heritage of the State of California. Yet, until recently, little had been done to preserve the missions and their artifacts. They are in dire need of structural repair and restoration.

The California missions are the most visited historic attractions in the State, drawing more than 5 million tourists a year. The missions also serve an important role in educating our children in the history and the early settlement in California. We must make restoration and protection of the missions a priority.

In 1998, the California Missions Foundation, a charitable corporation, was established in the State of California to fund the restoration and repair of the California missions and the preservation of the Spanish colonial and mission-era artworks and artifacts of the California missions. The Foundation is leading a statewide campaign to raise funds to repair the missions and preserve their precious artworks and artifacts. But they need help.

My legislation would provide \$10 million for the restoration of the California missions through a Department of the Interior grant program to be administered over 5 years. These funds would supplement the private and State funds that have been dedicated to preservation of the missions.

The House version of the bill has been introduced by Representatives SAM FARR and DAVID DREIER. It has the support of a majority of the California congressional delegation. It is my hope that this legislation can move forward quickly, so we can restore and protect these national treasures.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "California Missions Preservation Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The California missions represent some of our Nation's oldest historical treasures.

(2) The first of the California missions was founded in 1769, and eventually a chain of 21 missions and various sub-missions extended along the coast of California on El Camino Real.

(3) The California missions contribute greatly to the rich historical, cultural, and architectural heritage of California and the American West.

(4) The knowledge and cultural influence of native California Indians made a lasting contribution to the early settlement of California and the development of the California missions.

(5) More than 5,300,000 people visit the California missions annually, and the historical importance of the California missions extends worldwide as they have become a frequent destination for foreign visitors to the United States.

(6) The history of the California missions is an important educational component in California schools, and the study of the California missions is part of the Statewide fourth grade curricula on California history.

(7) Restoration and repair of the California missions, and the preservation of the Spanish colonial and mission-era artworks and artifacts of the California missions, for the public enjoyment will ensure that future generations also have the benefit of experiencing and appreciating these great symbols of the spirit of exploration and discovery in the American West.

SEC. 3. SUPPORT FOR THE RESTORATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE CALIFORNIA MISSIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CALIFORNIA MISSIONS.—The term "California missions" means the following historic Spanish missions located in the State of California and designated as California Registered Historical Landmarks:

(A) Mission La Purisima Concepcion, Lompoc.

(B) Mission La Soledad, Soledad.

(C) Mission San Antonio de Padua, Jolon.

(D) Mission San Buenaventura, Ventura.

(E) Mission San Carlos Borromeo del Rio Carmelo, Carmel.

(F) Mission San Diego Alcalá, San Diego.

(G) Mission San Fernando Rey de España, Mission Hills.

(H) Mission San Francisco de Asis, San Francisco.

(I) Mission San Francisco Solano, Sonoma.

(J) Mission San Gabriel Arcangel, San Gabriel.

(K) Mission San Jose, Fremont.

(L) Mission San Juan Bautista, San Juan Bautista.

(M) Mission San Juan Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano.

(N) Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa and its Asistencia (sub-mission) of Santa Margarita de Cortona, San Luis Obispo.

(O) Mission San Luis Rey de Francia and its Asistencia (sub-mission), Oceanside.

(P) Mission San Miguel Arcangel, San Miguel.

(Q) Mission San Rafael Arcangel, San Rafael.

(R) Mission Santa Barbara Virgen y Martir, Santa Barbara.

(S) Mission Santa Clara de Asis, Santa Clara.

(T) Mission Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz.

(U) Mission Santa Ines Virgen y Martir, Solvang.

(V) Asistencia San Antonio de Pala, Pala.

(2) CALIFORNIA MISSIONS FOUNDATION.—The term "California Missions Foundation" means the charitable corporation established in the State of California in 1998 to fund the restoration and repair of the California missions and the preservation of the Spanish colonial and mission-era artworks and artifacts of the California missions. The Foundation is exempt from State franchise and income tax and is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of the Interior may make grants to the California Missions Foundation to support the efforts of the California Missions Foundation to restore and repair the California missions and to preserve the artworks and artifacts associated with the California missions. As provided in section 101(e)(4) of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470a(e)(4)), the Secretary shall ensure that the purpose of a grant under this section is secular, does not promote religion, and seeks to protect those qualities that are historically significant.

(c) APPLICATION.—In order to receive a grant under this section for the preservation of the California missions, the California Missions Foundation shall submit to the Secretary an application that includes—

(1) a status report on the condition of the infrastructure and artifacts for each of the California missions; and

(2) a comprehensive program for restoration, repair, and preservation of such infrastructure and artifacts, including prioritized preservation efforts to be conducted over a 5-year period and the estimated costs of such preservation efforts.

(d) MATCHING FUND REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall require the California Missions Foundation to match grant funds provided under this section.

(e) REPORT.—As a condition of a grant under this section, the California Missions Foundation shall submit to the Secretary an annual report on the status of the preservation efforts undertaken using grant funds provided under this section. The Secretary shall submit a copy of each report to Congress.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary a total of \$10,000,000 during the five-fiscal year period beginning October 1, 2003, to make grants under this section. Funds appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in this section shall be in addition to any funds made available for preservation efforts in the State of California under the National Historic Preservation Act.

By Mr. SMITH:

S. 1307. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to assist in the implementation of fish passage and screening facilities at non-Federal water projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to provide

the Bureau of Reclamation, an agency of the Department of the Interior, with limited off-site mitigation authority in the Columbia River Basin. This legislation, if enacted, would enhance Reclamation's ability to comply with the provisions of the December 2000 biological opinion for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

This legislation is similar to an Administration proposal that was submitted to the Congress on October 30, 2002, but never introduced during the 107th Congress. Prior to the introduction of this bill, I have sought comments from numerous stakeholders in the Pacific Northwest and have addressed any concerns raised whenever possible.

While there has been a recent court ruling on the 2000 biological opinion that found certain aspects of the opinion to be arbitrary and capricious, it is important to move forward with the reasonable and prudent alternatives, including fish passage improvements. The Administration is currently working to address the deficiencies in the biological opinion. I remain committed to working with my colleagues, the Northwest governors, and the Administration to keep salmon recovery on track, while preserving the multiple benefits for the Pacific Northwest of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

The good news in our region is that over the past few years there have been robust salmon runs on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. Promising new technologies, such as removable spillways, have also been tested in recent years. I know that the Administration remains committed to taking actions throughout the salmon's life cycle to recover salmon runs in the Columbia and Snake Rivers. This important legislation, if enacted, will provide yet another tool in addressing the complex issues of salmon recovery. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and will press for its consideration in a timely manner.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. SMITH):

S. 1308. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to pursue and complete actions related to the implementation of a U.S. District of a U.S. District Court Consent Decree; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Savage Rapids Dam Act of 2003, for myself and my friend and colleague from Oregon, Senator GORDON SMITH.

This legislation is another good example of the Oregon way: bringing together varied interests to get win-win results for all stakeholders. Born out of controversy concerning the detrimental effects of the Savage Rapids Dam on fish passage and survival, this legislation is now supported by the Grants Pass Irrigation District, Waterwatch, Oregon's Governor, Trout

Unlimited, and various Oregon river guide and sport fishing concerns.

This legislation simply authorizes the Secretary of Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Secretary of Commerce, acting through National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, to undertake activities identified for Federal implementation, including construction, in accordance with U.S. District Court Consent Decree "United States, et al., v. Grants Pass Irrigation District, Civil No. 98-3034-HO", August 27, 2001.

This legislation has been years in the making. Senator SMITH and I introduced a related measure in the 106th Congress. As we return to this legislation in the 108th Congress, I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate and the stakeholders at home to make this legislation and this process work for the Grants Pass Irrigation District and the environment.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1308

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SEC. 1. AUTHORIZATION TO PARTICIPATE IN IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSENT DECREE.

The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Secretary of Commerce, acting through National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, are hereafter authorized to implement, and enter into financial assistance or other agreements as may be necessary to undertake activities identified for Federal implementation (including construction) in accordance with U.S. District Court Consent Decree "United States, et al., v. Grants Pass Irrigation District, Civil No. 98-3034-HO" (August 27, 2001)

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 1309. A bill to provide emergency assistance to producers that have suffered crop losses due to disasters; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Emergency Agriculture Assistance Act of 2003 on behalf of farmers throughout the state of Arkansas.

Last month, my State was hit with devastating storms that produced at least three dozen tornadoes and as much as 20 inches of rain fall. These natural disasters occurred at the worst possible time for farmers, at the beginning of the planting season, when they need to get their crops into the ground.

This is a particularly vulnerable time for farmers, since freshly planted crops

are highly susceptible to severe weather conditions.

A single day of heavy rains and high winds can undo a months worth of hard work, forcing producers to start over from scratch and replant entire fields or even entire farms.

Recently I was home in east Arkansas and saw much of this damage firsthand. To take just one example: In Mississippi County in northeast Arkansas, where Clark Long farms with his two sons, Clark Jr. and Nathan, 11 inches of rain fell in a two day period. As a result, the Longs were forced to replant 1400 cotton acres. Other farmers I have talked to are on their second or even third plantings.

Similar conditions abound throughout Mississippi County and northeast Arkansas, where historic planting deadlines have now passed. As a rule of thumb, a cotton farmer wants to have his crop planted no later than May 20th in order to maximize yields and to avoid having to harvest his crop in October. Farmers can typically expect yield reductions of up to two percent per day beyond this deadline, since late crops are generally more susceptible to weed and insect infestation and harsher weather conditions.

Cotton farming, as well as farming commodities such as soybeans, wheat, and rice, is an expensive and labor intensive process. These severe weather conditions exacerbate that situation greatly and place our farmers at serious risk.

We're going to monitor conditions throughout the year, guarding against further threats from severe weather, such as further tornadoes or even drought.

I urge my colleagues to join Senator PRYOR and me in passing this bill and protecting our farmers in this time of need.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today along with my good friend and colleague from Arkansas, Senator LINCOLN, in support of the Emergency Agricultural Assistance Act of 2003 to assist those in the agriculture community who have been devastated by natural disaster across our country.

I hold in my hand a June 19th article from the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette that describes one of the countless stories of farmers across my State and the hardships they have faced due to unusually large amounts of rainfall their farms have received during the absolute worst possible time. In the past month, some areas have received in excess of twenty inches of rain. Arkansas, along with many other States across the Midwest and South, has been pelted continuously by rain and numerous tornadoes. As many as three dozen tornadoes have touched down in Arkansas alone. Bob Bevis, a farmer in Lonoke County, AR hasn't been able to work for three weeks due to soggy fields. In the meantime, wheat crops that were expected to bring record

yields rot in the field, waiting for water to recede before the wheat can be harvested. Over fifty percent of Arkansas' wheat crop remains in the field, and with every passing day, the prospects for a successful harvest of wheat diminish. If current weather conditions abate, our farmers may be able to harvest five hundred fifty thousand acres, the lowest total in over seventeen years.

The harvest of winter wheat has been greatly affected by weather. But winter wheat, generating \$112.1 million in sales last year, represents only the fourth largest field crop in Arkansas. Rice, soybeans, and cotton represent our top three field crops. During the time wheat is being harvested, these other crops are being planted. Thus, while wheat has been affected, soybeans, cotton, rice, and numerous other crops have been devastated just as they are being put into the ground. Fields are under water. Crops that were planted early have been wiped out. Over 1.3 million acres of farmland across Arkansas have been affected by the excessive rainfall. Many of these acres had to be replanted, and just as quickly as our farmers began to have hopes of a decent crop, those hopes were dashed by disasters beyond their control. As you and many of our colleagues know, this is the critical time for planting crops. The later crops get in the ground, the later they will be harvested. The later they are harvested, the greater the chance insect problems, weed problems, and a whole host of other problems will damage these crops become likely. Yields will be dangerously low. Our farmers cannot suffer this burden alone. Our farmers provide our citizens around the country with an abundant food supply, greater than any other country in the world. We have the safest, least expensive food in the world, because farm families who are suffering through excessively tough times now work from dawn to dusk in the fields to make sure that we do. As a country, and as a government, I hope that my colleagues will show these dedicated Americans the support they deserve. They need our help, and they have asked for our help. I consider this a matter of national and homeland security, and I hope that my colleagues will see it this way as well.

This bill will provide farmers in disaster areas designated by the President who experience a thirty-five percent yield loss with disaster assistance. I would like to thank my colleague from my home state for her hard work and collaboration on this bill. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure our farmers get the support and help they need to keep America's food supply safe, inexpensive, and the best in the world.