

SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE TO JEFFERSON COUNTY AND SANDERS COUNTY, MONTANA.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act and subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”), acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall convey to Jefferson County, Montana, the Elkhorn Cemetery and to Sanders County, Montana, the Noxon Cemetery, for no consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcels of land as described in subsection (b).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcels of land referred to in subsection (a) are the parcels of National Forest System land (including any improvements on the land) known as—

(1) the Elkhorn Cemetery, which consists of 10 acres in Jefferson County located in SW1/4 Sec. 14, T. 6 N., R. 3 W.; and

(2) the Noxon Cemetery, which consists of 3.4 acres in Sanders County located in SE1/4, Sec. 24, T. 26 N., R. 33 W.

(c) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require such additional terms and conditions for the conveyance under subsection (a) as the Secretary considers appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 119—DESIGNATING APRIL 21, 2005, AS “NATIONAL KINDERGARTEN RECOGNITION DAY”

Mr. SALAZAR (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 119

Whereas Friedrich Froebel, known as the “Father of Kindergarten”, opened the first kindergarten classroom on April 21, 1837, with the goal of shaping young children in a nurturing, educational, and protected environment;

Whereas kindergarten has a long history of enhancing children’s cognitive, physical, and social development in the United States and throughout the world;

Whereas Margarethe Meyer Schurz opened the first German-speaking kindergarten in the United States in 1856, Elizabeth Peabody opened the first English-speaking kindergarten in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1873, and the first public school kindergarten classrooms were established under the leadership of Susan Blow and William Torrey Harris in St. Louis, Missouri, in the early 1870s;

Whereas kindergarten is a critical year in children’s formal education, as well as in their continued physical, social, and emotional development, that prepares them for later school success and lifelong learning;

Whereas quality kindergarten programs use developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate curricula, teaching practices, and assessments to support each child’s learning and development progress to reach his or her maximum potential;

Whereas teachers who teach kindergarten need to have specialized knowledge and skills in working with young children to respond to the unique interests, learning styles, and developmental characteristics of children in their kindergarten year;

Whereas kindergarten programs need to be ready for all children who are eligible, including children with disabilities and children who are not native English speakers, and their families;

Whereas kindergarten programs should collaborate and coordinate with preschools and with the other early elementary grades in order to provide a continuum of appropriate, effective early learning for all children as they transition to and through the early grades of school;

Whereas in 2001, more than more 3,700,000 children between the ages of 4 and 6 years old attended kindergarten, including full-day, half-day, or alternate day programs;

Whereas the percentage of children attending full-day kindergarten programs has grown from 28 percent in 1977 to 60 percent in 2001; and

Whereas establishment of a “National Kindergarten Recognition Day” will help draw attention to the critical role kindergarten plays as the transitional year from early education programs to the elementary and secondary education system: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 21, 2005, as “National Kindergarten Recognition Day” to raise public awareness about the impact of the kindergarten year on the development of our nation’s children; and

(2) urges the people of the United States to recognize the historic tradition of kindergarten in the United States and its contribution to preparing children for their elementary and secondary educational achievement and experiences.

SENATE RESOLUTION 120—HONORING SMALL BUSINESSES DURING THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION’S NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK, THE WEEK BEGINNING APRIL 24, 2005.

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. TALENT, Mr. VITTER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BOND, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ISAKSON, and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 120

Whereas America’s 25,000,000 small businesses have fueled the Nation’s economy, creating more than ¾ of all new jobs and accounting for more than 50 percent of the Nation’s gross domestic product;

Whereas small businesses are the Nation’s innovators, advancing technology and fueling the economic growth and productivity;

Whereas the Small Business Administration has been a critical partner in the success of the Nation’s small businesses and these businesses’ continued economic growth;

Whereas the mission of the Small Business Administration is to maintain and strengthen the Nation’s economy by aiding, counseling, assisting, and protecting the interests of small businesses and by helping families and small businesses recover from natural disasters;

Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped small businesses access critical lending opportunities, protected small businesses from excessive Federal regulatory enforcement, played a key role in ensuring full and open competition for government contracts, and improved the economic environment in which small businesses compete;

Whereas the Small Business Administration, which was established in 1953, has also provided valuable service to small businesses through financial assistance, technical assistance, procurement assistance, small business advocacy, and disaster recovery assistance;

Whereas for over 50 years the Small Business Administration has helped approximately 22,000,000 Americans start, grow, and expand their businesses and has placed almost \$250,000,000,000 in loans and venture capital financing into the hands of entrepreneurs;

Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped millions of entrepreneurs achieve the American dream of owning a small business; and

Whereas the Small Business Administration will mark National Small Business Week, the week beginning April 24, 2005: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors small businesses during the Small Business Administration’s National Small Business Week, the week beginning April 24, 2005;

(2) supports the purpose and goals of National Small Business Week; and

(3) commends the Small Business Administration and the Small Business Administration’s resource partners—

(A) for their work, which has been critical in helping the Nation’s small businesses grow and develop; and

(B) for being key players in the Nation’s economic vitality.

SENATE RESOLUTION 121—SUPPORTING MAY 2005 AS “NATIONAL BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH” AND COMMENDING THOSE STATES THAT HAVE IMPLEMENTED ROUTINE HEARING SCREENING FOR EVERY NEWBORN BEFORE THE NEWBORN LEAVES THE HOSPITAL

Mr. COLEMAN (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 121

Whereas the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders reports that approximately 28,000,000 people in the United States experience hearing loss or have a hearing impairment;

Whereas 1 out of every 3 people in the United States over the age of 65 have hearing loss;

Whereas the overwhelming majority of people in the United States with hearing loss would benefit from the use of a hearing aid and fewer than 7,000,000 people in the United States use a hearing aid;

Whereas 30 percent of people in the United States suffering from hearing loss cite financial constraints as an impediment to hearing aid use;

Whereas hearing loss is among the most common congenital birth defects;

Whereas a delay in diagnosing the hearing loss of a newborn can affect the social, emotional, and academic development of the child;

Whereas the average age at which newborns with hearing loss are diagnosed is between the ages of 12 to 25 months; and

Whereas May 2005 is National Better Hearing and Speech Month, providing Federal, State, and local governments, members of the private and nonprofit sectors, hearing and speech professionals, and all people in the United States an opportunity to focus on preventing, mitigating, and treating hearing impairments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Better Hearing and Speech Month, May 2005;

(2) commends those States that have implemented routine hearing screenings for every newborn before the newborn leaves the hospital; and

(3) encourages all people in the United States to have their hearing checked regularly.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to submit the Better Hearing and Speech Month Resolution with my friend and colleague Senator JOSEPH LIEBERMAN of Connecticut.

By passing this resolution, Congress will recognize May 2005 as National Better Hearing and Speech Month which will help raise public awareness, encourage prevention and treatment of hearing impairments, and commend those States that have implemented routine hearing screening for every newborn baby before the infant leaves the hospital. One in every ten Americans has hearing loss making it one of the most prevalent chronic health conditions in this country. In addition, every day 33 babies are born in the United States with permanent hearing loss, making it one of the most frequently occurring birth defects. The impact of delayed detection and intervention can last a lifetime.

When hearing loss is found early, intervention and treatment can produce dramatic improvements in child speech and language development by school age.

This Resolution will raise public awareness of the 28 million Americans who suffer from hearing loss and the importance of early detection and treatment.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this Resolution as research shows that children identified with hearing loss early and those who receive appropriate early qualified intervention by the age of six months have significantly improved speech skills than children whose hearing loss is identified later.

SENATE RESOLUTION 122—RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC EFFORTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO REDUCE THE THREAT OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION THROUGH COOPERATION IN THE NUNN-LUGAR/COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION PROGRAM, AND CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REMOVAL OF ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM THE TERRITORY OF KAZAKHSTAN

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

S. RES. 122

Whereas at the time of the collapse of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in December 1991, 1,410 nuclear warheads on heavy intercontinental ballistic missiles, air-launched cruise missiles, and heavy bombers were located within the Republic of Kazakhstan;

Whereas, on July 2, 1992, the parliament of Kazakhstan approved and made Kazakhstan

a party to the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, with annexes, protocols and memorandum of understanding, signed at Moscow July 31, 1991, and entered into force December 5, 1994 (commonly known as the "START Treaty");

Whereas, on February 14, 1995, Kazakhstan formally acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Washington, London, and Moscow July 1, 1968, and entered into force March 5, 1970 (commonly known as the "Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty");

Whereas, on December 13, 1993, the Government of Kazakhstan signed the Safe and Secure Dismantlement Act (SSD) and its 5 implementing agreements with the United States, and became eligible to receive \$85,000,000 in assistance under the Nunn-Lugar/Cooperative Threat Reduction Program;

Whereas the decision of the people and the Government of Kazakhstan to transfer all nuclear weapons from the territory of Kazakhstan to the control of the Russian Federation allowed Kazakhstan to become a non-nuclear-weapon State Party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;

Whereas the continuing efforts of the Government of Kazakhstan to pursue cooperative efforts with the United States and other countries to secure, eliminate, destroy, or interdict weapons and materials of mass destruction and their means of delivery provides a model for such efforts; and

Whereas, in April 1995, the Government of Kazakhstan formally transferred the last nuclear warhead from the territory of Kazakhstan to the territory of the Russian Federation: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the removal of the last nuclear warhead from the territory of Kazakhstan, the people and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for their historic decision to rid Kazakhstan of nuclear weapons.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today I submit a Senate resolution to celebrate the decision made by Kazakhstan to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapon state. Ten years ago this month Kazakhstan sent the last Soviet nuclear warhead on its territory to Russia.

With the Review Conference on the NPT in New York starting next week, it is an especially important time to note the progress made toward the NPT's goals, with U.S. assistance, in Kazakhstan.

More than a decade ago, when the Soviet Union collapsed, Kazakhstan became the fourth largest nuclear power in the world. But instead of enlarging the nuclear club, Kazakhstan joined Ukraine and Belarus in turning away from weapons of mass destruction. Courageous leaders chose instead to embrace the NPT in removing all nuclear arms from Kazakhstan.

The world cheered when Kazakhstan formally acceded to the NPT. I am proud of the role the United States played in Kazakhstan's decision and of our role in facilitating the removal of thousands of nuclear warheads and the elimination of hundreds of SS-18 intercontinental ballistic missiles, silos, and command centers. The addition of three more nuclear-armed states would have been a devastating setback for the NPT.

It is particularly important that the Senate draw attention to Kazakhstan's wise and brave choice, as it stands in stark contrast to events in India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Iran. In 1998, the world was shocked by the testing of nuclear weapons in India and Pakistan. In January 2003, the durability of the NPT was shaken by North Korea's purported withdrawal. We have watched for the past two years as the IAEA deliberated over Iran's numerous safeguards violations amid Tehran's threats of withdrawal from the NPT should the body seek to enforce the treaty's provisions.

With these events in mind, we should remember Kazakhstan. Instead of violating international norms and retaining nuclear weapons, Kazakh leaders made the right choice. When searching for success stories, the international community can turn to Kazakhstan.

The Nunn-Lugar Program also assisted Kazakhstan in eliminating the former Soviet nuclear weapons testing complex at the Degelen Mountain Test Tunnel Complex and at Balapan. In close cooperation with Kazakh partners, the Nunn-Lugar program systematically dismantled the complex and sealed nearly 200 nuclear test tunnels and shafts. These facilities will never again contribute to the weapons systems that threatened the world during the Cold War.

The United States, Kazakhstan, and the international community still have much work to do and these efforts will require compromise and sacrifice. The last ten years have shown that nothing is impossible. Both sides have set aside past differences to accomplish this cooperation. Let us continue to approach these challenges with creativity, a willingness to cooperate, and a commitment to the NPT.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet on Wednesday, April 27, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., to mark up S. 271, a bill which reforms the regulatory and reporting structure of organizations registered under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code.

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Susan Wells at the Rules and Administration Committee on 224-6352.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Intellectual Property be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Perspectives on Patents" on Monday, April 25, 2005, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.