

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. Res. 22. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Select Committee on Intelligence; from the Select Committee on Intelligence; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. SMITH:

S. Res. 23. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Special Committee on Aging; from the Special Committee on Aging; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. Res. 24. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on the Budget; from the Committee on the Budget; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. Res. 25. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Finance; from the Committee on Finance; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. Res. 26. A resolution commending the people of Iraq on the election held on January 30, 2005, of a 275-member transitional National Assembly and of provincial and regional governments and encouraging further steps toward establishment of a free, democratic, secure, and prosperous Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 5

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) were added as cosponsors of S. 5, a bill to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, and for other purposes.

S. 8

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 8, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 11

At the request of Mr. KOHL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 11, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that the strength of the Armed Forces and the protections and benefits for members of the Armed Forces and their families are adequate for keeping the commitment of the people of the United States to support their service members, and for other purposes.

S. 13

At the request of Mr. KOHL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 13, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to expand and enhance health care, mental health, transition, and disability benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 14

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 14, a bill to provide fair wages for America's workers, to create new jobs through investment in America, to provide for fair trade and competitiveness, and for other purposes.

S. 15

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 15, a bill to improve education for all students, and for other purposes.

S. 16

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 16, a bill to reduce the cost of quality health care coverage and improve the availability of health care coverage for all Americans.

S. 18

At the request of Mr. DAYTON, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 18, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements to the medicare program for beneficiaries.

S. 19

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 19, a bill to reduce budget deficits by restoring budget enforcement and strengthening fiscal responsibility.

S. 27

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 27, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes.

S. 33

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 33, a bill to prohibit energy market manipulation.

S. 37

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 37, a bill to extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 2 years.

S. 38

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 38, supra.

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 38, a bill to enhance and improve benefits for members of the National Guard and Reserves who serve extended periods on active duty, and for other purposes.

S. 42

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 42, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase the death gratuity payable with respect to deceased members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 50

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 50, a bill to authorize and strengthen the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's tsunami detection, forecast, warning, and mitigation program, and for other purposes.

S. 65

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 65, a bill to amend the age restrictions for pilots.

S. 78

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 78, a bill to make permanent marriage penalty relief.

S. 98

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 98, a bill to amend the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 and the Revised Statutes of the United States to prohibit financial holding companies and national banks from engaging, directly or indirectly, in real estate brokerage or real estate management activities, and for other purposes.

S. 103

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 103, a bill to respond to the illegal production, distribution, and use of methamphetamine in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 105

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 105, a bill to reauthorize and improve the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, improve access to quality child care, and for other purposes.

S. 117

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 117, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend loan forgiveness for certain loans to Head Start teachers.

S. 119

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) and the Senator from New

Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 119, a bill to provide for the protection of unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes.

S. 168

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 168, a bill to reauthorize additional contract authority for States with Indian reservations.

S. 186

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) were added as cosponsors of S. 186, a bill to prohibit the use of Department of Defense funds for any study related to the transportation of chemical munitions across State lines.

S. 187

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 187, a bill to limit the applicability of the annual updates to the allowance for States and other taxes in the tables used in the Federal Needs Analysis Methodology for the award year 2005–2006, published in the Federal Register on December 23, 2004.

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 7, a concurrent resolution congratulating the people of Ukraine for conducting a democratic, transparent, and fair runoff presidential election on December 26, 2004, and congratulating Viktor Yushchenko on his election as President of Ukraine and his commitment to democracy and reform.

S. RES. 18

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 18, a resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz extermination camp in Poland.

At the request of Mr. TALENT, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 18, supra.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THOMAS:

S. 203. A bill to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the “Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act of 2005,” a bill to limit the Federal royalty on soda ash. This legislation, if passed, will put people back to work in my State and address the important issue of maintaining a strong and financially sound manufacturing base in this country. It will keep jobs in America and give

workers a fighting chance to compete globally.

The State of Wyoming accounts for 85 percent of the natural soda ash produced in the United States. The health of the domestic soda ash industry is now at issue. This legislation goes a long way towards assisting the domestic industry to be competitive on a global basis.

The bill reduces an excessive tax on natural American soda ash; a tax that is significantly impairing the ability of U.S. exported soda ash to compete in important global markets; a tax that has helped create 30 percent decline in employment in this industry in Wyoming since 1997. The current 6 percent royalty on each ton of domestically produced soda ash was imposed in 1995 at a time when our exports of this important commodity, primarily used in the manufacture of glass were rising to record levels. It was a windfall tax that recognized the industry's significant expansion.

Over the last decade, export growth has been severely impacted, as several trading partners erected various barriers to U.S. soda ash, often to protect their own less efficient domestic producers. One of the most aggressive countries has been China. As recently as 1990, China imported over one million tons of soda ash annually from the U.S. Today, China exports two million tons from plants that produce a synthetic grade of this important commodity.

The Chinese produce soda ash in far less efficient factories with limited attention to environmental or safety concerns. The average wage of a Chinese worker in these plants is less than \$5 a day. By contrast Wyoming soda ash workers can earn on average \$35 an hour. Chinese soda ash producers, which are largely state owned, also benefit from direct and indirect forms of state support, as well as the benefits of a fixed exchange rate. As a result of these actions, China has supplanted the United States as the world's largest exporter of soda ash.

Wyoming soda ash producers remain the most efficient in the world and have been constantly improving their productivity over the last several years. It is an industry that is reinventing itself to meet the demands of fierce global competition.

My legislation restores the original royalty the Federal Government imposed on soda ash in the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. That act set a 2 percent royalty on soda ash mined on Federal leases. We would temporarily resume that royalty rate consistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 that requires the Secretary of the Interior to receive “fair market value” for the use of public lands and their resources. In other words, the legislation simply adjusts what was a windfall tax back to its original level.

The legislation is overdue and keeps our Nation's commitment to U.S. based manufacturing and jobs. The U.S. soda

ash industry has been a good partner with the Federal Government, providing additional revenue when business was flourishing. Now that the industry is fighting for its survival, the Federal Government has the opportunity to be a responsible partner and ease its tax burden so it can survive and provide the thousands of jobs that are so important to my State.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 204. A bill to establish the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area in the State of Louisiana; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I rise, along with Senator VITTER, to introduce a bill to establish the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area in Louisiana. This legislation has particularly special meaning to those of us from Louisiana because of the importance of the cultural and natural resources of the Atchafalaya region to the Nation. It would establish a framework to help protect, conserve, and promote these unique natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources of the region.

This legislation, which has been passed by the full Senate 3 times, once during the 107th Congress and twice during the 108th Congress, would establish a framework to help protect, conserve, and promote these unique natural, cultural, historical, and recreational resources of the region.

Specifically, the legislation would establish a National Heritage Area in Louisiana that encompasses thirteen parishes in and around the Atchafalaya Basin swamp, America's largest river swamp. The heritage area in south-central Louisiana stretches from Concordia parish to the north, where the Mississippi River begins to partially flow into the Atchafalaya River, all the way to the Gulf of Mexico in the south. The thirteen parishes are: St. Mary, Iberia, St. Martin, St. Landry, Avoyelles, Pointe Coupee, Iberville, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafayette, West Baton Rouge, Concordia, and East Baton Rouge. This boundary is the same area covered by the existing Atchafalaya Trace State Heritage Area.

This measure will appoint the existing Atchafalaya Trace Commission as the federally recognized “local coordinating entity.” The commission is composed of thirteen members with one representative appointed by each parish in the heritage area. Both the Atchafalaya Trace Commission and the Atchafalaya Trace State Heritage Area were created by the Louisiana Legislature a number of years ago. The Atchafalaya Trace State Heritage Area program currently receives some State funding, and already has staff working at the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism, DCRT, under Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Blanco. State funds were used to create