

the mediation and implementation requirements of section 40122 regarding changes in the Federal Aviation Administration personnel management system, and for other purposes.

S. 2231

At the request of Mr. BYRD, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2231, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to prescribe additional coal mine safety standards, to require additional penalties for habitual violators, and for other purposes.

S. 2235

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2235, a bill to posthumously award a congressional gold medal to Constance Baker Motley.

S. CON. RES. 78

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 78, a concurrent resolution condemning the Government of Iran for violating its international nuclear nonproliferation obligations and expressing support for efforts to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council.

S. RES. 180

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 180, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Epidermolysis Bullosa Awareness Week to raise public awareness and understanding of the disease and to foster understanding of the impact of the disease on patients and their families.

S. RES. 313

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 313, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that a National Methamphetamine Prevention Week should be established to increase awareness of methamphetamine and to educate the public on ways to help prevent the use of that damaging narcotic.

S. RES. 365

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 365, a resolution to provide a 60 vote point of order against out-of-scope material in conference reports and open the process of earmarks in the Senate.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 2249. A bill to eliminate the requirement that States collect Social Security numbers from applicants for recreational licenses; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the "Sportsmen's Privacy Protection Act" to address a number of privacy concerns I have heard from my constituents. When I

worked with my colleagues to pass the 1996 welfare reform law, we made sure that we created a system to hold parents accountable for supporting their children. A provision included in that law obligated States to implement new requirements to encourage payment of child support that cross-referenced Social Security Numbers of applicants for drivers' licenses, professional licenses, occupational licenses and recreational licenses. States that failed to implement these requirements would have faced the loss of Federal welfare funding.

Under current state law, Pennsylvania is required to revoke or deny recreational licenses, including hunting and fishing licenses of parents who are behind on child support payments. As a result, any individual that applies or renews a driver's, occupational or recreational license must include their Social Security Number on their application form. And it is the application that is the problem. In Pennsylvania and many other States, the drivers', professional and occupational records are automated or computerized, while the recreational licenses remain in a paper book often with multiple entries on a page. In my view, there are significant privacy concerns to continuing this provision as it relates to recreational licenses such as hunting and fishing.

In preparing this bill we asked the Congressional Research Service, CRS, about the effectiveness of this provision. CRS spoke with the Pennsylvania Child Support Program, PACSP, regarding the effectiveness of retracting or denying individuals hunting and fishing licenses. CRS indicated to my staff that there have been very few instances where individuals have been denied hunting and fishing licenses for falling behind in child support payments. In the overwhelming majority of the instances where they have been denied, the custodial parent will tip-off PACSP of the non-custodial parent's interest in obtaining a hunting and fishing license. PACSP can then notify the PA Hunting and Gaming Commission to deny the non-custodial parent a license.

I have heard from a lot of hunters about their legitimate concerns in giving their Social Security Number when applying for a hunting license. This bill will repeal the Federal mandate that requires States to collect Social Security Numbers for recreational licenses. The requirement for drivers', professional and occupational licenses would remain in place. My home State colleague, Representative English, has introduced a companion bill in the House of Representatives. I urge my colleagues to consider cosponsoring this legislation that restores the privacy rights of recreational hunters and fisherman, while maintaining an effective system of child support enforcement.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 2250. A bill to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Norman E. Borlaug; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am calling upon Congress to honor Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, the man of whom it is often said "has saved more lives than any other person who has ever lived," with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Dr. Borlaug is commonly known in the agricultural world and beyond as the father of the Green Revolution. His accomplishments in terms of bringing radical change to world agriculture and uplifting humanity are without parallel.

Named by TIME Magazine as one of the 100 most influential minds of the 20th Century, Norman E. Borlaug is one of the great stories of our time. Norm, as he is known to all who work with him, was born in 1914 to Norwegian-American parents outside the town of Cresco in northeast Iowa near the Iowa/Minnesota border. His boyhood was spent on a Norman Rockwellesque farm and in a one-room schoolhouse. Eventually Norm found his way to the University of Minnesota where he became a star in Big Ten Wrestling and earned a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology.

Following World War II, he spent 20 years working in the poorest areas of rural Mexico. It was there that Dr. Borlaug made his breakthrough achievement in developing a strand of wheat that could exponentially increase yields while actively resisting disease.

With the strong support of the governments involved, Dr. Borlaug's Green Revolution uplifted hundreds of thousands of the rural poor in Mexico and saved hundreds of millions from famine and outright starvation in India and Pakistan. His approach to wheat production next spread throughout the Middle East and was then adapted to rice growing, increasing the number of lives saved to more than one billion people.

In 1970 Norman E. Borlaug was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the only person working in agriculture to ever be so honored, for a lifetime of work to feed a hungry world. Since then, he has received numerous honors and awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, The National Academy of Sciences' highest honor—the Public Service Medal, and the Rotary International Award for World Understanding and Peace.

At age 91, Dr. Borlaug continues to alleviate poverty and malnutrition. He currently serves as president of Sasakawa Global 2000 Africa Project, which seeks to extend the benefits of agricultural development to the 800 million people still mired in poverty and malnutrition in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Finally, Dr. Borlaug continues as Chairman of the Council of Advisors

for the World Food Prize, an organization he created in 1986 to be the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture".

The World Food Prize presents \$250,000 award each October at an international ceremony in Des Moines, IA, to the Laureate who has made an exceptional achievement similar to Dr. Borlaug's breakthrough forty years ago. Beyond recognizing these people for their personal accomplishments, Borlaug saw the World Food Prize as a means of establishing role models who would inspire others.

In the 20 years of its existence, the World Food Prize has honored Laureates from Bangladesh, India, China, Mexico, Denmark, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

While Dr. Borlaug was born in Iowa, he is truly a citizen of all of America and, indeed, of all the world. The State of Minnesota has enacted a special day of recognition in his honor; He continues as a teacher, serving as a Distinguished Professor at Texas A&M University; and he has received honorary degrees from colleges and universities in virtually every state of the union.

Reflecting this fact, a year ago the U.S. Senate passed a resolution designating October 16 as World Food Prize Day in America in honor of Dr. Borlaug. Beyond that, his name is widely recognized in Mexico, India, Pakistan and the Middle East reflecting his great humanitarian achievements in those countries. And he continues to be honored throughout South Asia and Africa, for his ongoing efforts to expand the benefits of the Green Revolution to the hundreds of millions of people still suffering from chronic hunger and malnutrition.

Dr. Borlaug's achievements are in keeping with the recent presentation of Congressional Gold Medals.

For over a half century, the scientific and humanitarian achievements of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug have kept starvation at bay for millions of people in third world countries. Through the passage of this legislation, the United States Senate can recognize the humanitarian contributions Dr. Borlaug has made to the entire world. The man who has saved more lives than any other person who has ever lived certainly deserves the highest honor the Congress can bestow.

As the only working farmer in the U.S. Senate, I am proud and honored to introduce this important bill, and I call upon my colleagues to support this noble legislation. I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2250

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 "Congressional Tribute to Dr. Norman E. Borlaug Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds as follows:

(1) Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, was born in Iowa where he grew up on a family farm, and received his primary and secondary education.

(2) Dr. Borlaug attended the University of Minnesota where he received his B.A. and Ph.D. degrees and was also a star NCAA wrestler.

(3) For the past 20 years, Dr. Borlaug has lived in Texas where he is a member of the faculty of Texas A&M University.

(4) Dr. Borlaug also serves as President of the Sasakawa Africa Association.

(5) Dr. Borlaug's accomplishments in terms of bringing radical change to world agriculture and uplifting humanity are without parallel.

(6) In the immediate aftermath of World War II, Dr. Borlaug spent 20 years working in the poorest areas of rural Mexico. It was there that Dr. Borlaug made his breakthrough achievement in developing a strand of wheat that could exponentially increase yields while actively resisting disease.

(7) With the active support of the governments involved, Dr. Borlaug's "green revolution" uplifted hundreds of thousands of the rural poor in Mexico and saved hundreds of millions from famine and outright starvation in India and Pakistan.

(8) Dr. Borlaug's approach to wheat production next spread throughout the Middle East. Soon thereafter his approach was adapted to rice growing, increasing the number of lives Dr. Borlaug has saved to more than a billion people.

(9) In 1970, Dr. Borlaug received the Nobel Prize, the only person working in agriculture to ever be so honored. Since then he has received numerous honors and awards including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Public Service Medal, the National Academy of Sciences' highest honor, and the Rotary International Award for World Understanding and Peace.

(10) At age 91, Dr. Borlaug continues to work to alleviate poverty and malnutrition. He currently serves as president of Sasakawa Global 2000 Africa Project, which seeks to extend the benefits of agricultural development to the 800,000,000 people still mired in poverty and malnutrition in sub-Saharan Africa.

(11) Dr. Borlaug continues to serve as Chairman of the Council of Advisors of the World Food Prize, an organization he created in 1986 to be the "Nobel Prize for Food and Agriculture" and which presents a \$250,000 prize each October at a Ceremony in Des Moines, Iowa, to the Laureate who has made an exceptional achievement similar to Dr. Borlaug's breakthrough 40 years ago. In the almost 20 years of its existence, the World Food Prize has honored Laureates from Bangladesh, India, China, Mexico, Denmark, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

(12) Dr. Borlaug has saved more lives than any other person who has ever lived, and likely has saved more lives in the Islamic world than any other human being in history.

(13) Due to a lifetime of work that has led to the saving and preservation of an untold amount of lives, Dr. Norman E. Borlaug is deserving of America's highest civilian award: the congressional gold medal.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives are authorized to make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design, to Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, in recognition of

his enduring contributions to the United States and the world.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3 at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses, and the cost of the gold medal.

SEC. 5. STATUS AS NATIONAL MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—The medal struck under this Act is a national medal for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all duplicate medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There are authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund, such sums as may be necessary to pay for the cost of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 4 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 2252. A bill to designate the National Museum of Wildlife Art, located at 2820 Rungius Road, Jackson, Wyoming, as the National Museum of Wildlife of the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I am privileged to introduce a bill today that provides a national designation to the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, WY. As it should, a national designation signifies something unique that belongs to all the people of our Nation. Just as President Theodore Roosevelt recognized the uniqueness of Devils Tower in Wyoming when he proclaimed it to be the first national monument, my bill recognizes the uniqueness of the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson, WY. Wildlife museums are not unusual in the United States. Art museums are not unusual in the United States. This museum, however, sets itself apart from all the others as it focuses on wildlife art. This interdisciplinary approach fosters education as the museum uses art to teach people about wildlife and encourages wildlife lovers to explore art. The museum's educational focus is clear in their motto "bringing people, wildlife and fine art together."

The person responsible for bringing National Museum of Wildlife Art to my attention is Margaret, Maggie, Webster Scarlett. Given her involvement and accomplishments in the museum world, Maggie knows a worthy museum when she sees it. In 2002, the Senate confirmed Maggie as a member of the National Museum and Library Services

Board. This 24-member advisory body includes 20 Presidentially appointed and Senate-confirmed members of the general public who have demonstrated expertise in, or commitment to, library or museum services. She also is currently a member and past president of the board of trustees of the National Museum of Wildlife Art.

The National Museum of Wildlife Art was founded in 1987 with a private gift of a collection of art and is accredited with the American Association of Museums. The National Museum of Wildlife Art features a collection of over 2,000 pieces of art portraying wildlife. Dating from 2000 B.C. to the present, the collection chronicles much of the history of wildlife in art, focusing primarily on European and American painting and sculpture. The collection of American art from the 19th and 20th centuries is particularly strong, recording European exploration of the American West. Many of these works predate photography, making them vital representations of the frontier era in the history of the United States.

Using the collection as a base, the central themes to the museum's programming are connections between people, wildlife, and fine art. Even before this designation, people from across the United States had discovered the National Museum of Wildlife Art. Since its inception, it has become an American West destination attraction with an annual attendance of 92,000 visitors from all over the world and an award-winning Web site that receives more than 10,000 visits per week.

These visitors find wildlife on the walls of the museum but also outside of its doors. The National Museum of Wildlife Art is housed in an architecturally significant and award-winning 51,000 square foot facility that overlooks the 28,000 acre National Elk Refuge and is adjacent to the Grand Teton National Park. The museum displays and interprets this wildlife art in one of the few remaining areas of the United States where native wildlife roams abundantly.

The works in the museum are united by their subject and their quality. The permanent collection of the National Museum of Wildlife Art has grown to more than 3,000 works by important historic American artists including Edward Hicks, Anna Hyatt Huntington, Charles M. Russell, William Merritt Chase, and Alexander Calder, as well as contemporary American artists Steve Kestrel, Bart Walter, Nancy Howe, John Nieto, Jamie Wyeth, and others.

The National Museum of Wildlife Art seeks to educate a diverse audience through collecting fine art focused on wildlife, presenting exceptional exhibitions, providing community, regional, national, and international outreach, and presenting extensive educational programming for adults and children. A national designation presents a great opportunity to use the invaluable resources of the National Museum of Wildlife Art to teach the Nation's

school children, through on-site visits, traveling exhibits, classroom curriculum, on-line distance learning, and other educational initiatives.

I look forward to officially recognizing the renown of the National Museum of Wildlife Art through this bill.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. TALENT, and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 2253. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to offer the 181 Area of the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas leasing; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today, I introduce a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to hold a lease sale within one year in the area known as 181. This bill does not in any way alter the moratorium law on the OCS. The areas covered under this bill are not under executive or congressional moratorium. Furthermore, this bill protects a 100 mile buffer from the coastline of the State of Florida and it protects the prerogative of the United States armed forces to perform military activities in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. These protections are explicit in the bill and can not be disputed.

But more than that, this bill seeks to protect the American people from the rising cost of heating their homes. Only six years ago, the price of natural gas in the U.S. was \$2 per million btu. In the past few months, we have witnessed the price of natural gas rise above as much as \$14 per million btu. This morning, amidst a winter of above-average temperatures throughout much of the United States, the price of natural gas was over \$8 per million btu. In countries competing for our jobs, the price of the same commodity is substantially cheaper than that, in some cases one or two dollars per million btu. This increase in cost and volatility in the price of natural gas in the United States should have the immediate attention of our Nation's policy makers.

The effects of the rising price of natural gas cut across every major sector of our Nation's economy. Natural gas is used as a major source for electricity generation, home heating, cooling and cooking, and as an essential feedstock for the production of ammonia for use in fertilizer production. It is necessary to the manufacturing of fabrics, glass, steel, plastics and paint. In short, affordable natural gas is of relevance to every region and each State in this country and it is essential to maintaining our Nation's long-term sustained economic growth. Think of the one-two punch that will be dealt to the American consumer if the U.S. housing market fails to sustain its unprecedented growth of the last few years and energy costs continue to rise. The Federal Reserve estimated that in 2004, the American people had approximately \$600 billion in their pockets from refinancing and home equity loans. But an increasing amount of that money is going

right back out to pay the added costs of heating those homes. Over a six year period, America's natural gas bill has risen from \$50 billion to \$200 billion. That is \$150 billion less that the American people have to spend, save and invest. And it serves as an additional burden on the businesses that drive this nation's economy. This burden acts as a tax on the American people and only serves to stymie growth.

With this bill we seek to alleviate some of that burden. We direct the Department of the Interior to lease an area that holds a potential of nearly 5 tcf of gas. That is enough natural gas to heat and cool approximately five million homes for a period of 15 years. The natural gas from this area will have a real, substantial effect on the market and thus on the American consumer. Opening up this area will send an immediate signal to the natural gas market that Congress is pushing to quickly open up an area for production with great potential for a significant new supply of natural gas. The area is close to existing infrastructure in the Gulf of Mexico and is the best hope for a large infusion of natural gas on the market in the near term.

This bill presents a choice between affordable natural gas versus burying our heads in the sand while American people foot the bill and manufacturing jobs head overseas. There is certainly bipartisan support for the idea of relieving the energy costs of the American consumer, and I think that opening Lease Sale 181 helps us achieve this goal.

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

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

S. 2253

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

SECTION 1. OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING IN 181 AREA OF GULF OF MEXICO.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) 181 AREA.—The term "181 Area" means the area identified in map 15, page 58, of the Proposed Final Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 1997-2002 of the Minerals Management Service.

(2) MILITARY MISSION LINE.—The term "Military Mission Line" means the north-south line at 86°41' W. longitude.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Minerals Management Service.

(b) LEASE SALE.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Secretary shall offer the 181 Area for oil and gas leasing pursuant to the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) as soon as practicable, but not later than 1 year, after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) EXCLUDED AREAS.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Secretary shall not offer for oil and gas leasing—

(1) any area east of the Military Mission Line, unless the Secretary of Defense agrees in writing before the area is offered for lease that the area can be developed in a manner that will not interfere with military activities; or

(2) any area that is within 100 miles of the coastline of the State of Florida.

(d) LEASING PROGRAM.—The 181 Area shall be offered for lease under this section notwithstanding the omission of the 181 Area from any outer Continental Shelf leasing program under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344).

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to cosponsor the bill offered by the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. This legislation would require the Secretary of the Interior to offer for oil and gas lease certain lands within the original Lease Sale 181 Area in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area. The lease sale is to be conducted within 1 year after the date of enactment of the legislation.

The original Lease Sale 181 Area was proposed in 1997 by the Clinton administration after negotiations with the late Governor Lawton Chiles. The area to be leased under the bill includes only a portion of the original sale area, and does nothing to affect areas currently under congressional moratoria or Presidential withdrawal. No part of the area to be leased under the bill is closer than 100 miles from the Florida coastline. The so-called “stovepipe” portion of the original lease sale area is not included in the area to be leased under the bill. Leasing east of the Military Mission line under the bill can occur only with the prior written agreement of the Secretary of Defense that such area can be developed in a manner that will not interfere with military activities.

The area to be leased under the bill is estimated to contain some 6.03Tcf of natural gas and 0.93 billion barrels of oil. In this time of record high oil and gas prices, these energy resources can make a significant contribution to our domestic energy supply. Much of the necessary energy infrastructure is already in place in this region, so production can come online and be marketed in the near term.

The lease sale is to take place within a year after the date of enactment of the provision. This time frame is intended to allow full compliance with all applicable environmental laws. It is our expectation that expeditious, but complete, environmental compliance will be undertaken by the relevant agencies.

I regret that large portions of this sale area were previously made off limits by the current administration. In 2001, Secretary Norton reduced the size of the area to be offered in Lease Sale 181 from 5.9 million acres to 1.5 million acres. This action took off the table over 61 percent of the gas resources, some 7 Tcf, and 5-percent of the oil resources, about a billion barrels, estimated to be in the original area.

Directing the Secretary to offer for lease these additional portions of the Lease Sale 181 Area is one thing that the Congress can do to address our energy situation in the near term. It is past time to proceed with leasing the area that would be made available by

the bill. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

By Mr. DOMENICI:

S. 2254. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Army to carry out restoration projects along the Middle Rio Grande; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, we get few opportunities to help usher in visionary projects that can potentially transform communities, both of man and of nature. I rise today to talk about such a project—one that has been discussed before on this floor when I helped unveil a vision that would rehabilitate and restore New Mexico’s Bosque. I return here today to implement that vision that concerns this long neglected treasure of the Southwest.

According to an old Chinese Proverb, “if you are thinking one year ahead, sow seed. If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant a tree. If you are thinking 100 years ahead, educate the people.” The bill I am introducing today encompasses the wisdom of that proverb.

The Albuquerque metropolitan area is the largest concentration of people in New Mexico. It is also the home to the irreplaceable riparian forest which runs through the heart of the city and surrounding towns that is the Bosque. It is the largest continuous cottonwood forest in the Southwest, and one of the last of its kind in the world.

Unfortunately, mismanagement, neglect, and the effects of upstream development have severely degraded the Bosque. The list of its woes is long: it has been overrun by non-native vegetation; graffiti and trash mar locations along its length; the drought and build up of hazardous fuel have contributed to fires. As a result, public access is problematical and crucial habitat for scores of species is threatened.

Yet the Middle Rio Grande Bosque remains one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the Southwest. My goal is to restore the Bosque and create a space that is open and attractive to the public.

This is a grand undertaking to be sure; but I want to ensure that this extraordinary corridor of the Southwestern desert is preserved for generations to come—not only for generations of humans, but for the diverse plant and animal species that reside in the Bosque as well.

The rehabilitation of this ecosystem leads to greater protection for threatened and endangered species; it means more migratory birds, healthier habitat for fish, and greater numbers of towering cottonwood trees. This project can increase the quality of life for a city while assuring the health and stability of an entire ecosystem. Where trash is now strewn, paths and trails will run. Where jetty jacks and discarded rubble lie, cottonwoods will grow. The dead trees and underbrush that threaten devastating fire will be replaced by healthy groves of trees.

School children will be able to study and maybe catch sight of a bald eagle. The chance to help build a dynamic public space like this does not come around often, and I would like to see Congress embrace that chance on this occasion.

Having grown up along the Rio Grande in Albuquerque, the Bosque is something I treasure, and I lament the degradation that has occurred. Because of this, I have been involved in Bosque restoration since 1991, and I commend the efforts of groups like the Bosque Coalition for the work they have done, and will continue to do, along the river. I propose to build on their efforts with the legislation I am introducing today.

I remain grateful to each of the parties who has been involved with this idea since its inception. Each one contributes a very critical component of the project. The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (the “MRGCD”) owns the vital part of the Bosque which runs from the National Hispanic Cultural Center north to the Paseo Del Norte Bridge. The MRGCD has proven to be a valuable local partner that has worked with all parties to provide options on how the Bosque can be preserved, protected and enjoyed by everyone. Additionally, the Army Corps of Engineers is developing a preliminary restoration plan for the Bosque along the Albuquerque corridor.

My bill authorizes \$10 million dollars in Fiscal Year 2007 and such sums as are necessary for the following nine years to complete projects, activities, substantial ecosystem restoration, preservation, protection, and recreation facilities along the Middle Rio Grande. I urge my fellow members to help preserve this rare and diverse ecosystem and to aid the city of Albuquerque and the State of New Mexico in building a place to treasure.

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. 2254

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

- (1) the Middle Rio Grande bosque is—
 - (A) a unique riparian forest along the Middle Rio Grande in New Mexico;
 - (B) the largest continuous cottonwood forest in the Southwest;
 - (C) 1 of the oldest continuously inhabited areas in the United States;
 - (D) home to portions of 6 pueblos; and
 - (E) a critical flyway and wintering ground for migratory birds;
- (2) the portion of the Middle Rio Grande adjacent to the Middle Rio Grande bosque provides water to many people in the State of New Mexico;
- (3) the Middle Rio Grande bosque should be maintained in a manner that protects endangered species and the flow of the Middle Rio Grande while making the Middle Rio Grande bosque more accessible to the public;

(4) environmental restoration is an important part of the mission of the Corps of Engineers; and

(5) the Corps of Engineers should reestablish, where feasible, the hydrologic connection between the Middle Rio Grande and the Middle Rio Grande bosque to ensure the permanent healthy growth of vegetation native to the Middle Rio Grande bosque.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **MIDDLE RIO GRANDE.**—The term “Middle Rio Grande” means the portion of the Rio Grande from Cochiti Dam to the headwaters of Elephant Butte Reservoir, in the State of New Mexico.

(2) **RESTORATION PROJECT.**—The term “restoration project” means a project carried out under this Act that will produce, consistent with other Federal programs, projects, and activities, immediate and substantial ecosystem restoration, preservation, recreation, and protection benefits.

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Army.

SEC. 3. MIDDLE RIO GRANDE RESTORATION.

(a) **RESTORATION PROJECTS.**—The Secretary shall carry out restoration projects along the Middle Rio Grande.

(b) **PROJECT SELECTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may select restoration projects in the Middle Rio Grande based on feasibility studies.

(2) **USE OF EXISTING STUDIES AND PLANS.**—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall use, to the maximum extent practicable, studies and plans in existence on the date of enactment of this Act to identify the needs and priorities for restoration projects.

(c) **LOCAL PARTICIPATION.**—In carrying out this Act, the Secretary shall consult with—

(1) the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Act Collaborative Program; and

(2) the Bosque Improvement Group of the Middle Rio Grande Bosque Initiative.

(d) **COST SHARING.**—

(1) **COST-SHARING AGREEMENT.**—Before carrying out any restoration project under this Act, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the non-Federal interests that shall require the non-Federal interests—

(A) to pay 25 percent of the total costs of the restoration project through in-kind services or direct cash contributions, including the cost of providing necessary land, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal sites;

(B) to pay 100 percent of the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation costs associated with the restoration project that are incurred after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) to hold the United States harmless for any claim or damage that may arise from the negligence of the Federal Government or a contractor of the Federal Government.

(2) **NON-FEDERAL INTERESTS.**—Notwithstanding section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-5b), a non-Federal interest carrying out a restoration project under this Act may include a nonprofit entity.

(3) **RECREATIONAL FEATURES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Any recreational features included as part of a restoration project shall comprise not more than 30 percent of the total project cost.

(B) **NON-FEDERAL FUNDING.**—The full cost of any recreational features included as part of a restoration project in excess of the amount described in subparagraph (A) shall be paid by the non-Federal interests.

(4) **CREDIT.**—The non-Federal interests shall receive credit toward the non-Federal share of the cost of design or construction activities carried out by the non-Federal interests (including activities carried out be-

fore the execution of the cooperation agreement for a restoration project) if the Secretary determines that the work performed by the non-Federal interest is integral to the project.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act—

(1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2006; and

(2) such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2015.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 367—CONGRATULATING THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS FOR THEIR VICTORY IN SUPER BOWL XL

Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. SPECTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 367

Whereas, on Sunday, February 5, 2006, the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Seattle Seahawks by a score of 21–10, in Detroit, Michigan;

Whereas that victory marks the 5th Super Bowl Championship for the Steelers organization, tying Pittsburgh with the San Francisco 49ers and the Dallas Cowboys for the most Super Bowl wins in the history of the National Football League;

Whereas, after losing a game to Cincinnati on December 4, and dropping their record to 7 wins and 5 losses, the Steelers won 8 consecutive games, the last of which earned the team an overall record of 15–5 and the right to be named Super Bowl Champions;

Whereas the path of the Steelers to the Super Bowl included road victories against the Cincinnati Bengals, the Indianapolis Colts, and the Denver Broncos, making the Steelers the 2nd team in NFL history to win 3 playoff games on the road;

Whereas Bill Cowher, a Pittsburgh native and the longest tenured head coach in the NFL, was a steady presence throughout the season and earned his 1st Super Bowl victory after 14 seasons at the helm of the Steelers team;

Whereas Jerome Bettis, who is affectionately known as “The Bus,” and is the 5th leading rusher in NFL history, was the emotional leader of the Steelers team and was able to return to his hometown of Detroit to participate in his 1st Super Bowl, after which he announced his retirement from the game of football;

Whereas Hines Ward, who caught 5 passes for 123 yards and 1 touchdown, was named Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl XL, joining Franco Harris, Lynn Swann, and Terry Bradshaw as the only Steelers to earn that prestigious award;

Whereas, at the age of 23, Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was the youngest starting quarterback ever to win a Super Bowl;

Whereas the defense of the Steelers, led by Pro-Bowl performers Troy Polamalu, Joey Porter, and Casey Hampton, held the highest scoring team in the NFL, the Seattle Seahawks, to more than 18 points below their season average of 28.3 points per game; and

Whereas the Rooney family, who have owned the Pittsburgh Steelers since the founding of the team in 1933, have provided the Steelers organization with a level of stability and commitment to community that is unmatched in the modern sports environment and have created a team that is as be-

loved by its hometown as any in the world; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates the Pittsburgh Steelers on their hard-fought, well-deserved victory in Super Bowl XL.

SENATE RESOLUTION 368—TO DESIGNATE APRIL 1, 2006, AS “NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS DAY.”

Mr. REID submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 368

Whereas deadly asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas when airborne asbestos fibers are inhaled or swallowed, the damage can be permanent and irreversible;

Whereas those fibers can cause mesothelioma, asbestosis, lung cancer, and pleural diseases;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases can take 10 to 50 years to manifest themselves;

Whereas the expected survival rate of those diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas little is known about late-stage treatment of, and there is no cure for, asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases would give patients increased treatment options and often improve their prognosis;

Whereas asbestos is a toxic and dangerous substance and must be disposed of properly;

Whereas nearly half of the more than 1,000 screened firefighters, police officers, rescue workers, and volunteers who responded to the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001, have new and persistent respiratory problems;

Whereas the industry groups with the highest incidence rates of asbestos-related diseases, based on 2000 to 2002 data, were shipyard workers, vehicle body builders (including rail vehicles), pipefitters, carpenters and electricians, and workers in the construction (including insulation work and stripping), extraction, energy and water supply, and manufacturing industries;

Whereas the United States imports more than 30,000,000 pounds of asbestos used in products throughout the United States;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases kill 10,000 people in the United States each year;

Whereas asbestos exposure is responsible for 1 in every 125 deaths of men over the age of 50;

Whereas safety and prevention will reduce asbestos exposure and asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas asbestos has been the largest single cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas asbestos is still a hazard for 1,300,000 workers in the United States;

Whereas asbestos-related deaths have greatly increased in the last 20 years;

Whereas 30 percent of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of virtually all office buildings, public schools, and homes built before 1975; and

Whereas the establishment of a “National Asbestos Awareness Day” would raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates April 1, 2006, as “National Asbestos Awareness Day”.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise to submit a resolution to designate April