

Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tier I Issue: Government Settlements Directive Number 2" (LMSB-04-0707-050) received on September 17, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3374. A communication from the Acting Regulations Officer, Office of the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Updates to Applicability of the Supplemental Security Income Reduced Benefit Rate for Individuals Residing in Medical Treatment Facilities" (RIN0960-AF99) received on September 18, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3375. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Center for Medicaid and State Operations, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Revisit User Fee Program for Medicare Survey and Certification Activities" (RIN0938-AO96) received on September 18, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3376. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the extension of memoranda concerning Peru; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3377. A communication from the Chairman, National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, "Eighth Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Administrative Simplification Provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3378. A communication from the Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the organization's inventory of commercial activities for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3379. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Employee Contribution Election and Contribution Allocations; Correction of Administrative Errors; Availability of Records; Death Benefits; Loan Program; Thrift Savings Plan" (5 CFR Parts 1600, 1605, 1631, 1651, 1655 and 1690) received on September 18, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3380. A communication from the Director, Division of Strategic Human Resources Policy, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reemployment of Civilian Retirees to Meet Exceptional Employment Needs" (RIN3206-AI32) received on September 18, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3381. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, notification that the cost of response and recovery efforts in Texas has exceeded the \$5,000,000 limit; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3382. A communication from the Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "New Classification for Victims of Criminal Activity; Eligibility for 'U' Non-immigrant Status" (RIN1615-AA67) received on September 18, 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3383. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General for Administration,

National Security Division, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Foreign Intelligence and Counterintelligence Records System, JUSTICE/NSD-001" (AAG/A Order No. 023-2007) received on September 17, 2007; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3384. A communication from the Past National President, American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., transmitting, pursuant to law, the organization's annual tax audit; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-3385. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, a draft bill intended to establish the position of Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction within the Department; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 1771. A bill to increase the safety of swimming pools and spas by requiring the use of proper anti-entrapment drain covers and pool and spa drainage systems, to educate the public about pool and spa safety, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-182).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Jennifer Walker Elrod, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Patrick P. Shen, of Maryland, to be Special Counsel for Immigration-Related Unfair Employment Practices for a term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 2072. A bill to authorize Western States to make selections of public land within their borders in lieu of receiving 5 percent of the proceeds of the sale of public land lying within said States as provided by their respective enabling Acts; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mr. BOND):

S. 2073. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act relating to the statute of limitations that applies to certain claims; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2074. A bill to provide for safe and humane policies and procedures pertaining to the arrest, detention, and processing of aliens in immigration enforcement operations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. VITTER, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 2075. A bill to ensure that women seeking an abortion receive an ultrasound and the opportunity to review the ultrasound before giving informed consent to receive an abortion; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2076. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require the President to designate certain geographical areas as national renewable energy zones, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2077. A bill to establish a program to assure the safety of fresh produce intended for human consumption, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2078. A bill to require updating of State building energy efficiency codes and standards; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2079. A bill to amend the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to establish an energy efficiency resource standard for retail electricity and natural gas distributors; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 2080. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to ensure that sewage treatment plants monitor for and report discharges of raw sewage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2081. A bill to require manufacturers to demonstrate sufficient means to cover, for certain products distributed in commerce, costs of potential recalls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. REID):

S. 2082. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a Coordinated Environmental Public Health Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. Res. 323. A resolution recognizing Kikkoman Foods, Inc., for its 50 years of operations in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. LOTT, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. TESTER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SUNUNU, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. Res. 324. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "National Life Insurance Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 156

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 156, a bill to make the

moratorium on Internet access taxes and multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce permanent.

S. 388

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a national standard in accordance with which nonresidents of a State may carry concealed firearms in the State.

S. 667

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 667, a bill to expand programs of early childhood home visitation that increase school readiness, child abuse and neglect prevention, and early identification of developmental and health delays, including potential mental health concerns, and for other purposes.

S. 772

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 772, a bill to amend the Federal antitrust laws to provide expanded coverage and to eliminate exemptions from such laws that are contrary to the public interest with respect to railroads.

S. 799

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 799, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide individuals with disabilities and older Americans with equal access to community-based attendant services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 885

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 885, a bill to ensure and foster continued patient safety and quality of care by making the antitrust laws apply to negotiations between groups of independent pharmacies and health plans and health insurance issuers in the same manner as such laws apply to collective bargaining by labor organizations under the National Labor Relations Act.

S. 911

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 911, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to advance medical research and treatments into pediatric cancers, ensure patients and families have access to the current treatments and information regarding pediatric cancers, establish a population-based national childhood cancer database, and promote public awareness of pediatric cancers.

S. 921

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 921, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the

coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 1001

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1001, a bill to restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

S. 1050

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1050, a bill to amend the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Public Health Service Act to set standards for medical diagnostic equipment and to establish a program for promoting good health, disease prevention, and wellness and for the prevention of secondary conditions for individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1146

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1146, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care for veterans who live in rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1267

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1267, a bill to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media.

S. 1328

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1328, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate discrimination in the immigration laws by permitting permanent partners of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to obtain lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents and to penalize immigration fraud in connection with permanent partnerships.

S. 1338

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1338, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a two-year moratorium on certain Medicare physician payment reductions for imaging services.

S. 1445

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1445, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish, promote, and support a comprehensive prevention, research, and medical management referral program for hepatitis C virus infection.

S. 1465

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1465, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of certain medical mobility devices approved as class III medical devices.

S. 1494

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1494, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the special diabetes programs for Type I diabetes and Indians under that Act.

S. 1518

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1518, a bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to reauthorize the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1543

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1543, a bill to establish a national geothermal initiative to encourage increased production of energy from geothermal resources, and for other purposes.

S. 1576

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1576, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the health and healthcare of racial and ethnic minority groups.

S. 1661

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1661, a bill to communicate United States travel policies and improve marketing and other activities designed to increase travel in the United States from abroad.

S. 1703

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1703, a bill to prevent and reduce trafficking in persons.

S. 1718

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1718, a bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for reimbursement to servicemembers of tuition for programs of education interrupted by military service, for deferment of students loans and reduced interest rates for servicemembers during periods of military service, and for other purposes.

S. 1760

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Michigan

(Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 1760, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Healthy Start Initiative.

S. 1845

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1845, a bill to provide for limitations in certain communications between the Department of Justice and the White House Office relating to civil and criminal investigations, and for other purposes.

S. 1848

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1848, a bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to address the impact of globalization, to reauthorize trade adjustment assistance, to extend trade adjustment assistance to service workers, communities, firms, and farmers, and for other purposes.

S. 1852

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1852, a bill to designate the Friday after Thanksgiving of each year as "Native American Heritage Day" in honor of the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States.

S. 1895

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1895, a bill to aid and support pediatric involvement in reading and education.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to understand and comprehensively address the oral health problems associated with methamphetamine use.

S. 1909

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1909, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage, as supplies associated with the injection of insulin, of home needle removal, decontamination, and disposal devices and the disposal of needles and syringes through a sharps-by-mail or similar program under part D of the Medicare program.

S. 2020

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2020, a bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2010, to rename the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 as the "Tropical Forest and Coral Conservation Act of 2007", and for other purposes.

S. 2034

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2034, a bill to amend the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 to designate the Copper Salmon Wilderness and to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the North and South Forks of the Elk River in the State of Oregon as wild or scenic rivers, and for other purposes.

S. 2045

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2045, a bill to reform the Consumer Product Safety Commission to provide greater protection for children's products, to improve the screening of noncompliant consumer products, to improve the effectiveness of consumer product recall programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2061

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2061, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exempt certain home health workers from the provisions of such Act.

S.J. RES. 13

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 13, a joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the International Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding.

S. RES. 201

At the request of Mr. VITTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 201, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "National Life Insurance Awareness Month".

AMENDMENT NO. 2000

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2000 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2067

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2067 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of

the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2086

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2086 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2878

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2878 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2893

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2893 proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2894

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2894 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction,

and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2912

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2912 intended to be proposed to H. R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2919

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2919 intended to be proposed to H. R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2924

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2924 proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2928

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2928 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2931

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

DURBIN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2931 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2932

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2932 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2934

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2934 proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2934 proposed to H.R. 1585, *supra*.

AMENDMENT NO. 2944

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2944 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1585, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 2072. A bill to authorize Western States to make selections of public land within their borders in lieu of receiving 5 percent of the proceeds of the sale of public land lying within said States as provided by their respective enabling Acts; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce The Action Plan for Public Land and Education Act of 2007. This bill would restore some balance to the way education is funded in many of the western States, where a large por-

portion of public land is owned by the Government. This bill would authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to grant a small portion of these Federal lands to the states so they can generate the much needed education revenue.

I wonder how many of my colleagues know that 10 of the 12 States with the largest pupil-per-teacher ratios are in the West? These 10 western States also have the lowest growth in per-pupil expenditures. And these ratios will only grow worse as growth in the West continues to out-pace the rest of the country. In fact, three of the fastest growing counties are in Utah.

I would like to take a moment to discuss how the west has gotten into this situation. Let us take a look at Utah's history, which began when in July of 1894, the State Enabling Act was approved. This act allowed "the People of Utah to form a Constitution and State Government, and to be admitted into the Union."

However, Section 9 of the enabling act sets forth that "five percent of the proceeds of the sales of public lands lying within said State, which shall be sold by the United States subsequent to the admission of said State into the Union . . . shall be paid to the said State, to be used as a permanent fund, the interest of which only shall be expended for the support of the common schools within said State."

The Federal Government never followed through on its promise. Our bill, the APPLE Act, S. 2072, would direct the Government to deliver on that promise.

The Government's lack of follow-through on its promise is only exacerbated by the lack of a sales tax base in the west. Sales tax revenue, as we all know is generated on private lands. On average, the Federal Government owns 52 percent of the land located in the 13 western States, while the remaining States average just 4 percent Federal land ownership. Federal ownership in Utah is about 65 percent, second only to Nevada.

The problem is that sales tax is not being collected on these Federal lands, and public education is funded largely through sales tax revenues.

Some may say that the west's education funding deficit is due to a lack of commitment or effort by the States. This is not true.

The fact is that allocations to public education, by percentage, in the West matches or exceeds the rest of the Nation. In fact, western States pay on average 11.1 percent of their personal income to State and local taxes, whereas residents of the remaining States pay 10.9 percent.

I urge my colleagues to lend their support to addressing the west's education funding shortfall by helping me to pass the Action Plan for Public Land and Education Act of 2007.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2076. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to require the President to