

First, I want to talk about ethanol. It is difficult to understand why Congress continues to believe that ethanol is a desirable substitute for gasoline. It is widely reported that even if all of the 300 million acres—500,000 square miles—of currently harvested U.S. cropland produced ethanol, they wouldn't supply all of the gasoline and diesel fuel we now burn for transport, and they would supply only about half of the demand for the year 2025. We are not going to grow our way to energy security. We are also starting to see the devastating effects our current ethanol production is having on our scarce water supply, the environment, and human health.

Despite these facts, one of the bill's most prominent features is a five-fold increase in the ethanol mandate from the currently required 7.5 billion gallons by 2012 to 36 billion gallons by 2022. Meeting this mandate will require even more corn-based ethanol and the production of other so-called advanced biofuels, largely made from cellulosic ethanol. Although cellulosic ethanol production is in its infancy and does not exist commercially today, the bill specifies that 21 billion gallons of the 36 billion gallons mandated be cellulosic ethanol. This is nothing more than a congressional gamble with American taxpayer dollars.

If Congress is serious about moving away from oil to alternative fuels it cannot, as it has done here, subsidize political favorites and engage in statutory prescription. This will actually slow energy innovation and may even retard the gains we have made. An excellent example of this point is the exclusion of woody biomass material from our Nation's overgrown forests from the production of advanced biofuels. Companies throughout the West, including many small businesses, are working in partnership with the Federal Government to help restore our national forests by removing this woody biomass material and using it to produce energy. This oversight in the bill complicates these efforts and could seriously slow the gains my home State of Arizona and other Western States dominated by Federal lands have made to combat catastrophic wildfire.

Now, let's turn to the other major feature of this bill—federally mandated increases in corporate average fuel economy, CAFE, standards. This bill requires each manufacturer's fleet to average 35 miles per gallon by 2020, a roughly 40 percent increase over current standards for cars and trucks. What this proposal seems to overlook is that more fuel efficient cars and trucks already exist on the market for those who want them. And as gas prices rise, my guess is increasing numbers of consumers will buy smaller, more fuel efficient cars without being told to do so by Congress. The point is that this is a consumer choice issue. By federally mandating these increases there will be less choice, in-

creases in car sticker prices, and the very real possibility of more unnecessary highway deaths due to the increases in lighter vehicles, which generally are less safe in collisions on the road. A National Academy of Sciences study concluded that vehicle downsizing costs 1,300 to 2,600 lives per year.

Another major problem with the CAFE provisions in the bill is the failure to clarify the regulatory responsibilities of the National Highway Transportation Safety Board and the Environmental Protection Agency over the regulation of tailpipe emissions and fuel economy requirements. The administration in its Statement of Administration Policy makes this point. Failing to address this issue will likely leave industry to sort through layers of contradictory regulation.

Beyond the biofuels and CAFE provisions, the bill includes a full assortment of new efficiency mandates for appliances and buildings and even takes measures to phase out incandescent lightbulbs. Industry in the private sector has already brought to market alternative lighting technologies to the traditional lightbulb, and as prices drop consumers are switching over to them. Provisions like these are nothing more than Congress's attempt to take credit for something the market is already doing and accomplishing far more quickly and efficiently than the government can, I might add.

In sum, instead of enacting poor energy policy, Congress should focus on what it must do before we leave here this year—fund the Government by enacting fiscally responsible appropriations bills and ensuring our troops have what they need.

PASSAGE OF FARM BILL

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, with the passage of the farm bill, I want to commend the work of my legislative staff led by Kasey Gillette our senior legislative assistant. Kasey did an excellent job on both substance and strategy always focusing on how the bill would impact farm families and the agricultural economy of Pennsylvania. Kasey had two great teammates: Caryn Long and Alex Davis, who labored for months on very complex matters in the bill. Without the work of Kasey, Caryn, and Alex, I wouldn't have been able to have four amendments adopted during the floor debate and five others adopted during the committee markup.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE HALE

- Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, this morning WABI-AM radio in my home State of Maine dedicated the George Hale Studio in Bangor. I commend Clear Channel Communications for recognizing the many contributions George Hale has made to our State dur-

ing his 54-year career in broadcasting, and I am honored to offer a few words in tribute to him.

George Hale is a true broadcasting legend. For more than a half century, he has kept the people of Maine informed, he has entertained us, and he has brought us together as a community of friends and neighbors. He has brought the best of Maine into our homes, and he has always been a welcome guest.

Still going strong today, George Hale will forever be associated with the Bangor Auditorium and the great high school basketball tournaments held there, but that is just a start. University of Maine football, baseball, and basketball have all benefited from his great work, and he is beloved by generations of fans, coaches, and players. Whether describing victory or defeat, he always treats the athletes with respect and appreciation for their efforts.

Generations of Mainers have begun their day with George. Many used to begin their day by tuning in at 5:45 a.m. to hear his thoughts and comments on everything ranging from Red Sox to world affairs.

And the tradition continues today. Along with his friend and cohost Ric Tyler, George's show provides news and insight about the issues facing Maine and the Nation. As one who has appeared on his show many times, I can say that George always treats his guests with fairness and respect.

George was blessed with a great voice, and he has used it well as a powerful spokesman for great causes. His support for the March of Dimes, and especially his advocacy for the folic acid campaign, has greatly helped this outstanding organization carry out its vital mission of improving the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality. The March of Dimes and George Hale truly are a championship team.

WABI-AM radio is known as the Voice of Maine. It is a fitting name because George Hale truly is the Voice of Maine. He is a great friend to me and to all the people of my State. I know we all look forward to many more years of hearing that great voice from the George Hale Studio.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4357. A communication from the Director, Regulatory Review Group, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Streamlining of the Farm Service Agency's Direct Farm Loan Programs" (RIN0560-AB60) received on December 7, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4358. A communication from the Administrator, Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Potato Provisions" (RIN0563-AC05) received on

December 7, 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4359. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Russel L. Honore, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4360. A communication from the Principal Deputy, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost effectiveness of the Defense Commissary Agency; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4361. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Shareholder Proposals Relating to the Election of Directors" (RIN3235-AJ95) received on December 6, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4362. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Corporation Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Rules 144 and 145" (RIN3235-AH13) received on December 6, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4363. A communication from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Identity Theft Red Flags and Address Discrepancies Under the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003" (RIN3064-AD00) received on December 7, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4364. A communication from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving the sale of one Boeing 777-200ER aircraft to Angola; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4365. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Specifications for the 2007 Pacific Sardine Fishing Season" (RIN0648-AV11) received on December 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4366. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries Observer Health and Safety" (RIN0648-AU46) received on December 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4367. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Northern Rockfish for Vessels Participating in the Rockfish Entry Level Fishery in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XD83) received on December 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4368. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the storage of plutonium at the Savannah River Site; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4369. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report rel-

ative to the integration of the hurricane storm damage reduction system; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4370. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Voluntary Disclosures" (22 CFR part 127) received on December 6, 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4371. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the International Arms Traffic in Arms Regulations: UN Embargoed Countries" (22 CFR part 126) received on December 6, 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4372. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Regarding Dual and Third Country Nationals" (22 CFR part 124) received on December 6, 2007; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4373. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed agreement for the export of defense services to the United Kingdom in support of the sale of one C-17 Globemaster III aircraft; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4374. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed agreement for the export of defense services to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to support the sale of 16 S-92A helicopters; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4375. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to loan guarantees to Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4376. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed license for the export of defense services to Canada related to the acquisition of SNIPER Targeting Pods; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4377. A communication from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of the Requirements for Live Vaccine Processing" (Docket No. 2007N-0284) received on December 7, 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4378. A communication from the Special Assistant to the President and Director, Office of Administration, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to personnel employed in the White House Office; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4379. A communication from the Inspector General, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance Report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4380. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4381. A communication from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Overseas

Private Investment Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's Management Report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4382. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Department's Inspector General for the 6-month period of April 1, 2007, through September 30, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4383. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4384. A communication from the Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Administration's Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4385. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, its consolidated report relative to its operations; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-271. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada urging Congress to pass the DREAM Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2492. A bill to provide for improved oversight of and accountability for military housing privatization initiative projects; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2493. A bill to prohibit the limitation of certain air traffic in the New York and New Jersey region; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 2494. A bill to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. REID:

S. Res. 407. A resolution relative to the death of Representative Julia Carson, of Indiana; considered and agreed to.