

possible for private insurers to offer more insurance in catastrophe-prone areas; and

Whereas, a portion of the premiums collected by insurance companies could be deposited into such a fund which could be administered by the United States Treasury and grow tax free; and

Whereas, the federal catastrophe fund would operate as a “backstop” and could only be accessed when private insurers and state catastrophe funds have paid losses in excess of a defined threshold; and

Whereas, utilizing the capacity of the federal government would help smooth out fluctuations consumers currently experience in insurance prices and availability because of exposure to large catastrophic losses and would provide better protection at a lower price; and

Whereas, when there is a gap between the insurance protection consumers buy and the damage caused by a major catastrophe, taxpayers across the country pay much of the difference, as congressional appropriations of billions of dollars for after-the-fact disaster relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina demonstrated: Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to create a federal catastrophe fund; and be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-4. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to commanding and memorializing Congress for passing the Domenici-Landrieu Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16**

Whereas, since 1930 the coastal landscape of Louisiana has lost over 1,900 square miles of land, eroding at a rate of 25 square miles every year. In addition, hurricanes Katrina and Rita converted over 200 square miles of wetlands into open water; and

Whereas, the communities, economy, natural resources, and cultural heritage of south Louisiana remain vulnerable to the extremes of coastal flooding, hurricanes, and land loss; and

Whereas, the protection and restoration of coastal Louisiana will require a long term commitment of funding to establish comprehensive, effective and sustainable coastal protection projects and programs; and

Whereas, the Louisiana congressional delegation has been working for decades to secure a steady stream of revenue to fund the critical work of coastal protection and restoration in Louisiana; and

Whereas, since the inception and development of federal offshore oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico, the state of Louisiana has provided essential onshore support for such production; and

Whereas, such support has included numerous components of Louisiana’s vital “energy corridor” that provide the nation with a third of its domestic oil and gas supply, including the pipeline systems that cross Louisiana’s coastal wetlands; and

Whereas, the countless communities in south Louisiana that form the backbone and labor force to facilitate the delivery of these crucial energy resources to the rest of the nation are critical factors in such support; and

Whereas, the federal government collects over \$6 billion each year from the bonus bids,

rents and royalties derived from federal leases on the Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico, and under current federal law nearly all of these revenues are deposited into the General Treasury of the United States; and

Whereas, in recognition of the urgent crisis facing coastal Louisiana and of the support provided by each of the Gulf Coast states that produce oil and gas for the nation, and in further acknowledgment of the significant amount of funding available from oil and gas production on the Outer Continental Shelf, the United States Congress passed the Domenici-Landrieu Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 on December 9, 2006; and

Whereas, this act authorizes oil and gas development in about 8.3 million acres of the eastern Gulf of Mexico, including 2.5 million acres within a section known as Lease Area 181; and

Whereas, beginning in the federal Fiscal Year 2007 and in each fiscal year thereafter, this Act directs the secretary of the United States Department of the Interior to share 37.5 percent of the revenues from these new areas with the states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama for coastal restoration, with such funds to be derived from bonus bids, rents, and royalties on leases within the new areas; and

Whereas, beginning in the federal Fiscal Year 2016 and in each fiscal year thereafter, this Act further directs the secretary of the United States Department of the Interior to share 37.5 percent of the revenues with the states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama from all new federal oil and gas leases after the date of enactment in existing U.S. Department of Interior, Mineral Management Service, planning areas throughout the Gulf of Mexico; and

Whereas, the enactment of this Act represents the most significant change offshore oil and gas policy in over fifty years; and

Whereas, the dedication of these revenues constitute the beginning of the steady stream of federal funding sought by the Louisiana congressional delegation for decades; and

Whereas, such steady stream of federal funding is a truly significant step towards sustainable coastal protection and restoration as an attainable goal for Louisiana; Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of Louisiana commands and memorializes the United States Congress for passing the Domenici-Landrieu Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, which provides for sharing of federal offshore oil and gas revenue with Louisiana for coastal protection and restoration. Be it further

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of Louisiana congratulates the members of the Louisiana congressional delegation for their dedication, persistence, and vigilance in fighting for a share of federal offshore oil and gas revenues to protect and restore coastal Louisiana through the passage of the Domenici-Landrieu Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006. Be it further

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of Louisiana requests and urges President George W. Bush to immediately sign the Domenici-Landrieu Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006. Be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress, and to the office of the President of the United States.

POM-5. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to memorializing Congress to au-

thorize Louisiana to lease closed interstate rest areas to private entities; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18**

Whereas, many rest areas located on Louisiana’s interstate highways have been closed in recent years; and

Whereas, these closed rest areas have created a burden on the state and an eyesore to interstate travelers; and

Whereas, if the Congress authorized Louisiana to lease closed interstate rest areas to private entities, certain conveniences, such as gas stations, auto repair stations and restaurants, could be offered to the traveling public in a convenient manner; and

Whereas, these conveniences would then be available in areas where they are not currently available; and

Whereas, such developments could provide a revenue stream to Louisiana by making use of property in a desirable area not currently being used in commerce: Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to authorize Louisiana to lease closed interstate rest areas to private entities in order to provide services and products helpful or desirable to interstate travelers. Be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

**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 Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 235. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain buildings and lands of the Yakima Project, Washington, to the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr.

SUNUNU, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 236. A bill to require reports to Congress on Federal agency use of data mining; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr.

CRAIG, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MARTINEZ,

Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 237. A bill to improve agricultural job opportunities, benefits, and security for aliens in the United States and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr.

GREGG, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. NELSON of

Florida, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 238. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to limit the misuse of Social Security numbers, to establish criminal penalties for such misuse, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 239. A bill to require Federal agencies, and persons engaged in interstate commerce, in possession of data containing sensitive personally identifiable information, to disclose any breach of such information; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. BENNETT, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. BUNNING):

S. 240. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 241. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements to protect natural resources of units of the National Park System through collaborative efforts on land inside and outside of units of the National Park System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. INOUYE, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 242. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the importation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. GREGG, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COBURN, Mr. VITTER, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. BURR):

S. 243. A bill to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself, Mr. McCONNELL, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. THUNE, Mr. ALLARD, and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. 244. A bill to improve women's access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the delivery of obstetrical and gynecological services; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 245. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home in Hope, Arkansas, as a National Historic Site and unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. ENZI, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 246. A bill to enhance compliance assistance for small business; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 247. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 555 Independence Street, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as the "Rush Hudson Limbaugh, Sr. United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 248. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and modify the work opportunity credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 249. A bill to permit the National Football League to restrict the movement of its franchises, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 250. A bill to reduce the costs of prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries

and to guarantee access to comprehensive prescription drug coverage under part D of the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. DEMINT):

S. 251. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the importation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 252. A bill to repeal the provision of law that provides automatic pay adjustments for Members of Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. LANDRIEU:

S. 253. A bill to permit the cancellation of certain loans under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 254. A bill to award posthumously a Congressional gold medal to Constantino Brumidi; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 255. A bill to provide assistance to the State of New Mexico for the development of comprehensive State water plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. AKAKA):

S. Res. 22. A resolution reaffirming the constitutional and statutory protections accorded sealed domestic mail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 2

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

S. 5

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research.

S. 10

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 10, a bill to reinstate the pay-as-you-go requirement and reduce budget deficits by strengthening budget enforcement and fiscal responsibility.

S. 43

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 43, a bill to amend title II of the So-

cial Security Act to preserve and protect Social Security benefits of American workers and to help ensure greater congressional oversight of the Social Security system by requiring that both Houses of Congress approve a totalization agreement before the agreement, giving foreign workers Social Security benefits, can go into effect.

S. 65

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 65, a bill to modify the age-60 standard for certain pilots and for other purposes.

S. 143

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 143, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction of State and local general sales taxes.

S. 147

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 147, a bill to empower women in Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

S. 191

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 191, a bill to provide relief for all air carriers with pension plans that are not frozen pension plans.

S. 195

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 195, a bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to establish permanent authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to quickly provide disaster relief to agricultural producers that incur crop or livestock losses as a result of damaging weather or related condition in federally declared disaster areas, and for other purposes.

S. 211

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 211, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on human services, volunteer services, and for other purposes.

S. 214

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 214, a bill to amend chapter 35 of title 28, United States Code, to preserve the independence of United States attorneys.

S. 223

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Delaware