

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 5

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) 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. 316

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 316, a bill to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market.

S. 327

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 327, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of sites associated with the life of Cesar Estrada Chavez and the farm labor movement.

S. 358

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 358, a bill to prohibit discrimination on the basis of genetic information with respect to health insurance and employment.

S. 394

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 394, a bill to amend the Humane Methods of Livestock Slaughter Act of 1958 to ensure the humane slaughter of nonambulatory livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 460

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 460, a bill to make determinations by the United States Trade Representative under title III of the Trade Act of 1974 reviewable by the Court of International Trade and to ensure that the United States Trade Representative considers petitions to enforce United States Trade rights, and for other purposes.

S. 465

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 465, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act and title III of the Public Health Service Act to improve access to information about individuals' health care options and legal rights for care near the end of life, to promote advance care planning and decisionmaking so that individuals' wishes are known should they become unable to speak for themselves, to engage health care providers in disseminating information about and assisting in the preparation of advance directives, which include living wills and durable

powers of attorney for health care, and for other purposes.

S. 590

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the investment tax credit with respect to solar energy property and qualified fuel cell property, and for other purposes.

S. 626

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) were added as cosponsors of S. 626, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for arthritis research and public health, and for other purposes.

S. 628

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 628, a bill to provide grants for rural health information technology development activities.

S. 645

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 645, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to provide an alternate sulfur dioxide removal measurement for certain coal gasification project goals.

S. 691

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 691, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the benefits under the Medicare program for beneficiaries with kidney disease, and for other purposes.

S. 700

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 700, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide a tax credit to individuals who enter into agreements to protect the habitats of endangered and threatened species, and for other purposes.

S. 718

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 718, a bill to optimize the delivery of critical care medicine and expand the critical care workforce.

S. 721

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 721, a bill to allow travel between the United States and Cuba.

S. 731

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 731, a bill to develop a methodology for, and complete, a national assessment of geological storage capacity for carbon dioxide, and for other purposes.

S. 746

At the request of Mr. ALLARD, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 746, a bill to establish a competitive grant program to build capacity in veterinary medical education and expand the workforce of veterinarians engaged in public health practice and biomedical research.

S. 766

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 766, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies of victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 769

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 769, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that participants in the Troops to Teachers program may teach at a range of eligible schools.

S. 770

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 770, a bill to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to permit participating households to use food stamp benefits to purchase nutritional supplements providing vitamins or minerals, and for other purposes.

S. 795

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 795, a bill to assist aliens who have been lawfully admitted in becoming citizens of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 796

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 796, a bill to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide that exchange-rate misalignment by any foreign nation is a countervailable export subsidy, to amend the Exchange Rates and International Economic Policy Coordination Act of 1988 to clarify the definition of manipulation with respect to currency, and for other purposes.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 812, a bill to prohibit human cloning and protect stem cell research.

S. 831

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 831, a bill to authorize States and local governments to prohibit the investment of State assets in any company that has a qualifying business relationship with Sudan.

S. 839

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 839, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude amounts received as a military basic housing allowance from consideration as income for purposes of the low-income housing credit and qualified residential rental projects.

S. 844

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 844, a bill to provide for the protection of unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes.

S. 858

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 858, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the transportation fringe benefit to bicycle commuters.

S. 902

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 902, a bill to provide support and assistance for families of members of the National Guard and Reserve who are undergoing deployment, and for other purposes.

S. 911

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) 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. 969

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 969, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the definition of supervisor.

S. 970

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 970, a bill to

impose sanctions on Iran and on other countries for assisting Iran in developing a nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 974

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 974, a bill to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide that the provisions relating to countervailing duties apply to non-market economy countries, and for other purposes.

S. 991

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 991, a bill to establish the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation under the authorities of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961.

S. 999

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 999, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.

S. 1012

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1012, a bill to amend the Consumer Credit Protection Act to assure meaningful disclosures of the terms of rental-purchase agreements, including disclosures of all costs to consumers under such agreements, to provide certain substantive rights to consumers under such agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 1020

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1020, a bill to move toward energy independence through a coordinated development of renewable energy sources, including wave, solar, wind, geothermal, and biofuels production.

S. 1026

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1026, a bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia, as the "Charlie Norwood Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

S. 1060

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1060, a bill to reauthorize the grant program for reentry of offenders into the community in the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, to improve reentry planning and implementation, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 3

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 3, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that it is the goal of the United States that, not later than January 1, 2025, the agricultural, forestry, and working land of the United States should provide from renewable resources not less than 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States and continue to produce safe, abundant, and affordable food, feed, and fiber.

S. CON. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 25, a concurrent resolution condemning the recent violent actions of the Government of Zimbabwe against peaceful opposition party activists and members of civil society.

S. RES. 65

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 65, a resolution condemning the murder of Turkish-Armenian journalist and human rights advocate Hrant Dink and urging the people of Turkey to honor his legacy of tolerance.

S. RES. 76

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 76, a resolution calling on the United States Government and the international community to promptly develop, fund, and implement a comprehensive regional strategy in Africa to protect civilians, facilitate humanitarian operations, contain and reduce violence, and contribute to conditions for sustainable peace in eastern Chad, northern Central African Republic, and Darfur, Sudan.

S. RES. 106

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 106, a resolution calling on the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide.

S. RES. 141

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 141, a resolution urging all member countries of the International Commission of the International Tracing Service who have yet to ratify the May 2006 amendments to the 1955 Bonn Accords to expedite the ratification process to allow for open access to the Holocaust archives located at Bad Arolsen, Germany.

S. RES. 142

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 142, a resolution observing Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, and calling on the remaining member countries of the International Commission of the International Tracing Service to ratify the May 2006 amendments to the 1955 Bonn Accords immediately to allow open access to the Bad Arolsen archives.

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 142, supra.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 1089. A bill to amend the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act to allow the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects to hire employees more efficiently, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that should allow the entity we created just 2½ years ago to oversee and expedite construction of a gas line to bring Alaska's huge reserves of natural gas to markets in the lower 48 States to work better and function more smoothly and quickly.

I, and Senator TED STEVENS who is co-sponsoring this legislation, are introducing this bill in an effort to help speed the full functioning of the Office of Pipeline Coordinator, the entity that we created in fall 2004 to oversee the permitting, design and then construction of an Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline project, intended to bring Alaska's reserves of gas to a Nation in need of additional natural gas supplies.

In 2004 we passed two sets of provisions. The first in that year's Military Construction Appropriations Act, H.R. 4837, P.L. 108-324/15 U.S.C. 720, set up an Office of Federal Pipeline Coordinator to oversee the 15 Federal agencies that will have a role to play in construction and financing of a pipeline system. The bill also set up a streamlined permitting and expedited court review process to limit unnecessary delays in the project—and hopefully prevent costly delays from driving up the project's price. That bill also included an \$18 billion Federal loan guarantee. The second of that year's pipeline related bills, the FSC-ETI Act (H.R. 4520/P.L. 108-357) provided the Federal financial incentives expected to be needed to aid financing of the project. They included a tax credit for the cost of the pipe in Alaska and a tax credit for the cost of

construction of an Alaskan North Slope gas conditioning plant. The two credits were believed to produce about three-quarters of a billion dollars of benefit to the project.

The project itself involves building a system, either an overland pipeline through Canada or a pipeline through Alaska leading to a natural gas liquefaction facility at tidewater in Alaska, to move gas to markets in the lower 48 States. Alaska has 35 trillion cubic feet of known gas in the Prudhoe Bay oil field and likely holds another 150 to 200 trillion cubic feet of gas both on and offshore in northern Alaska. Getting that gas to market would help to meet a likely gas shortage in the lower 48 States within a decade, helping to keep the United States from becoming even more dependent on imported LNG from foreign suppliers.

Currently Alaska's new Governor is in the process of calling for proposals from gas producers, pipeline companies and others interested in building the project, one currently estimated to cost between \$30 billion and about half that amount—depending on whether the line through Canada or an LNG project is deemed most economic.

Congress last year funded the creation of the Federal Coordinator's office to begin the process of bringing Federal and State agencies together to oversee the permitting, design, and construction of a pipeline. The Office of the Federal Coordinator was funded for fiscal year 2007 initially with a \$403,000 transfer of funds from the Department of Energy, with perhaps another \$450,000 to \$500,000 soon to be transferred. A coordinator, Alaskan former State Senate President Drue Pearce, was also named, confirmed and is now at work, and the office has reached an agreement with all of the 15 Federal agencies it will oversee on how a pipeline is to be permitted.

The Bush administration has proposed \$2.3 million in its fiscal year 2008 budget request to better fund the Coordinator's Office. But development of the office has shown three problems that need corrective action by Congress, the first immediately.

First, the 2004 act made the Coordinator follow Federal personnel law, specifically Title 5 that is a slow and cumbersome personnel process. This bill grants a waiver to Title 5 hiring procedures so that the Federal Coordinator can hire and fire her staff, based on their competence. That should cut the time needed to staff the office with experts in pipeline construction by 6 to 9 months. Given how important it is that the agency has specialists quickly to assist the State of Alaska in its efforts to select a pipeline builder, passing legislation to speed the hiring of Office staff is vital.

The waiver, also is common practice for smaller Federal agencies as a host of agencies, from the Election Assistance Commission to the Vietnam Education Foundation, enjoy the hiring waiver.

Second, the bill gives the coordinator the ability to establish reasonable permit filing and service fees and charges to defray the cost of regulating and the oversight of any pipeline project. While the proposed budget may pay for a half dozen to a dozen employees, nearly 400 were employed in oversight of construction of the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline, some 30 years ago. The bill copies the structure that is currently employed by the Bureau of Land Management's oil and gas leasing division, FLP&MA Section 304, so that it follows a known process in allowing the Federal Coordinator to set and collect fees.

Third, the bill in its Section 2 clarifies part of the original 2004 act's Section 107. That section set up an expedited review process so that any suit concerning the pipeline under its enabling legislation or concerning its compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act would go first to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit. All cases would have to be filed within 60 days of an action and the court would have to "expedite" decisions on all such cases. This action simply also adds that suits stemming from the pipeline's permitting or construction that relates to the Administrative Procedures Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act, besides NEPA, would also go to the D.C. Circuit for expedited review. It clearly follows the original intent of the 2004 act, but does not limit litigation unfairly.

The goal of this legislation, if it can be approved quickly by this Congress, would be to help the Pipeline Coordinator staff her office more quickly and then to provide the office the possibility of a more readily available source of funding, should a pipeline applicant move to proceed: The bill also will clarify the legal process for review of a pipeline, helping to speed the project and reduce the chances for cost overruns in construction of potentially the largest private capital construction project in the world's history.

This is a vital project. It has the ability to move from 4.5 to 6 billion cubic feet of gas a day, about 5 percent of the Nation's total gas needs in 2018—the first year the pipeline could go into service, if a final overland project was selected and proposed within the next year. It would likely produce about a third of that initially, if an LNG project was selected to be built.

This should not be a controversial measure. It should have no non-appropriated costs involved in carrying out its provisions. Section 2 of the bill will save the Nation untold millions of dollars in overseeing permitting and construction of a pipeline, once a firm project is selected. Some will say that the bill is not needed since the State of Alaska has yet to reach final agreement with Alaska North Slope gas producers on a firm agreement to build a line. I would argue, however, that this bill needs to pass now to provide additional assistance to help the State