

AA64)(Docket No. 2006-NM-193)) received on May 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1864. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330 Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. 2006-NM-214)) received on May 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1865. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-600, -700, -700C, and -800 Series Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. 2006-NM-001)) received on May 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1866. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc RB211-524 Series Turbofan Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. 2002-NE-40)) received on May 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1867. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Aircraft Company Models 58 and G58 Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. 2006-CE-58)) received on May 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1868. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Przedsiebiorstwo Doswiadczalno-Produkcyjne Szybownictwa 'PZL-Bielsko' Model SZD-50-3 'Puchacz' Gliders" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. 2006-CE-082-AD)) received on May 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1869. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; EADS SOCATA Model TBM 700 Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. 2006-CE-59)) received on May 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1870. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; B-N Group Ltd. BN-2, BN-2A, BN-2B, BN-2T, and BN-2T-4R Series, and BN-2A-MkIII Trislander Series" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. 2006-CE-72)) received on May 7, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1871. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Update of Filing Fees" (Docket No. RM07-12-000) received on May 7, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-1872. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's position on the budgeting of the Breckenridge, Minnesota Local Flood Reduction Project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-1873. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to U.S. military personnel and civilian contractors involved in the anti-narcotics campaign in Colombia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1874. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the certification of Kazakhstan's commitment to the courses of action described in the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 1325. A bill to amend the Act of July 3, 1890, to provide for the granting to a State of a parcel of land for use as an agricultural college and to proscribe the use of earnings and proceeds thereof; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 1326. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and enhance compensation and pension, health care, housing, burial, and other benefits for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 1327. A bill to create and extend certain temporary district court judgeships; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEAHY:

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; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 1329. A bill to extend the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, to provide improved visitor services at the park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 1330. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide for wage insurance for displaced workers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. DODD):

S. 1331. A bill to regulate .50 BMG caliber sniper rifles; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. DODD, and Mr. ENZI)):

S. 1332. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and violence to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental

health programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 1333. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to strengthen the earned income tax credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BYRD, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1334. A bill to amend section 2306 of title 38, United States Code, to make permanent authority to furnish government headstones and markers for graves of veterans at private cemeteries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

S. 1335. A bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

S. 1336. A bill to provide for an assessment of the achievement by the Government of Iraq of benchmarks for political settlement and national reconciliation in Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. SMITH, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 1337. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to provide for equal coverage of mental health services under the State Children's Health Insurance Program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. SMITH, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KOHL, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BURR, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. CARDIN):

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; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KERRY)):

S. 1339. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, the Higher Education Act of 1965, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve recruitment, preparation, distribution, and retention of public elementary and secondary school teachers and principals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER:

S. Res. 191. A resolution establishing a national goal for the universal deployment of next-generation broadband networks to access the Internet and for other uses by 2015, and calling upon Congress and the President to develop a strategy, enact legislation, and adopt policies to accomplish this objective; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 206

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 206, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the

Government pension offset and wind-fall elimination provisions.

S. 231

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 231, a bill to authorize the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program at fiscal year 2006 levels through 2012.

S. 268

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 268, a bill to designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail, and for other purposes.

S. 309

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 309, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, and for other purposes.

S. 326

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 326, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special period of limitation when uniformed services retirement pay is reduced as result of award of disability compensation.

S. 384

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 384, a bill to provide pay protection for members of the Reserve and the National Guard, and for other purposes.

S. 430

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 430, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and the enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and for other purposes.

S. 453

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 453, a bill to prohibit deceptive practices in Federal elections.

S. 456

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 456, a bill to increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, to deter and punish violent gang crime, to protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, to revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, to expand and improve gang prevention programs, and for other purposes.

S. 469

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 469, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans.

S. 557

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 557, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the depreciation classification of motorsports entertainment complexes.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as a cosponsor of S. 579, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

S. 625

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 625, a bill to protect the public health by providing the Food and Drug Administration with certain authority to regulate tobacco products.

S. 654

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to establish the Food Safety Administration to protect the public health by preventing food-borne illness, ensuring the safety of food, improving research on contaminants leading to food-borne illness, and improving security of food from intentional contamination, and for other purposes.

S. 667

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) 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. 721

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

S. 749

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Ken-

tucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 749, a bill to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, or commercial names.

S. 753

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 753, a bill to enhance scientific research and competitiveness through the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, and for other purposes.

S. 777

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 777, a bill to repeal the imposition of withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities.

S. 847

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 847, a bill to extend the period of time during which a veteran's multiple sclerosis is to be considered to have been incurred in, or aggravated by, military service during a period of war.

S. 848

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 848, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide improved benefits for veterans who are former prisoners of war.

S. 953

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 953, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to ensure competition in the rail industry, enable rail customers to obtain reliable rail service, and provide those customers with a reasonable process for challenging rate and service disputes.

S. 958

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 958, a bill to establish an adolescent literacy program.

S. 969

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as cosponsor 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 name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor 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. 994

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 994, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the deductible and change the method of determining the mileage reimbursement rate under the beneficiary travel program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1012

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1042

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1042, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to make the provision of technical services for medical imaging examinations and radiation therapy treatments safer, more accurate and less costly.

S. 1065

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1065, a bill to improve the diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injury in members and former members of the Armed Forces, to review and expand telehealth and telemental health programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 1075

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1075, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to expand access to contraceptive services for women and men under the Medicaid program, help low income women and couples prevent unintended pregnancies and reduce abortion, and for other purposes.

S. 1083

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1083, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase competitiveness in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1139

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1139, a bill to establish the National Landscape Conservation System.

S. 1149

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S.

1149, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to authorize the interstate distribution of State-inspected meat and poultry if the Secretary of Agriculture determines that the State inspection requirements are at least equal to Federal inspection requirements and to require the Secretary to reimburse State agencies for part of the costs of the inspections.

S. 1212

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit direct payment under the Medicare program for clinical social worker services provided to residents of skilled nursing facilities.

S. 1223

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1223, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to support efforts by local or regional television or radio broadcasters to provide essential public information programming in the event of a major disaster, and for other purposes.

S. 1239

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1239, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the new markets tax credit through 2013, and for other purposes.

S. 1249

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to require the President to close the Department of Defense detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and for other purposes.

S. 1256

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1256, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize loan programs under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1261

At the request of Mrs. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1261, a bill to amend title 10 and 38, United States Code, to repeal the 10-year limit on use of Montgomery GI Bill educational assistance benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 1283

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1283, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the management of medical care, personnel actions, and quality of life issues for members of the Armed Forces who are

receiving medical care in an outpatient status, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 29

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 29, a concurrent resolution encouraging the recognition of the Negro Baseball Leagues and their players on May 20th of each year.

S. RES. 82

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 82, a resolution designating August 16, 2007 as "National Airborne Day".

S. RES. 134

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 134, a resolution designating September 2007 as "Adopt a School Library Month".

S. RES. 171

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 171, a resolution memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the day of the National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

S. RES. 185

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 185, a resolution supporting the ideals and values of the Olympic Movement.

AMENDMENT NO. 985

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 985 proposed to S. 1082, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1009

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1009 proposed to S. 1082, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1034

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1034 proposed to S. 1082, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1059

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1059 intended to be proposed to S. 1082, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 1325. A bill to amend the Act of July 3, 1890, to provide for the granting to a State of a parcel of land for use as an agricultural college and to proscribe the use of earnings and proceeds thereof; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today, with my colleague from Idaho, Senator CRAIG, I rise to introduce a bill to amend the Idaho Admissions Act of July 3, 1890 to permit Idaho to administer Morrill Act lands and the proceeds there from in accordance with contemporary investment standards.

The State of Idaho has been working to update its management of endowed assets received as part statehood from the Federal Government to ensure the maximum long-term financial return to the beneficiaries. Key to endowment reform is the implementation of contemporary investment principles that require asset diversification to reduce the risk of loss and that permit a trustee to deduct reasonable costs of administration of the assets normally incurred by a prudent fiduciary. Of the Federal grants to Idaho as part of statehood, only the Morrill Act limits investments in bonds of the United States or Idaho and precludes deducting reasonable administrative expenses incurred by the trustee. This bill would allow the State of Idaho to administer the Morrill Act assets under the same fiduciary standards now applicable to all of Idaho's other federally granted endowments.

Additionally, a broad group of state, Federal, and private interests, including the University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the State of Idaho, United Dairymen of Idaho and Allied Industry, College of Southern Idaho, the Idaho Cattle Association, Idaho Wool Growers, the Idaho National Laboratory, and Federal agencies have joined together in developing plans for the Idaho Center for Livestock and Environmental Studies to serve as a premier center for research and education in dairy and beef science. The important mission of the center is "To enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Idaho, the Pacific Northwest, and the Nation by furthering the educational and scientific mission of the University of Idaho and its public/private partners, by providing a state-of-the-art animal re-

search facility capable of large-scale research that provides sound scientific results and educational opportunities intended to: protect our air, land and water, improve the welfare and productivity of our livestock, encourage the efficient use of energy and capital, and enhance workforce and economic development."

The University of Idaho, as a partner in the project and beneficiary of the Morrill Act endowment, is well positioned to utilize endowment assets to both continue to carryout the educational purposes and maintain the underlying real estate endowment while contributing to the project. However, modernization of the management of endowed assets needs to occur in order for such a worthy project to move forward.

That is why the legislation Senator CRAIG and I are introducing today will provide more flexibility while allowing for the allocation of management expenses in the same fashion as other State endowments, expand investment authority to match other State endowments, and provide for the use of the earnings from management of the sale of endowed lands to be used for the acquisition, construction, and improvements for the operation of research farms for teaching and research purposes.

I ask that my colleagues act on this measure in a timely manner.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 1326. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and enhance compensation and pension, health care, housing, burial, and other benefits for veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Comprehensive Veterans Benefits Improvements Act of 2007.

The purpose of this bill is to address many of the long-standing benefit and other policy issues that are a priority to the national veteran service organizations and millions of their members all across our country. The legislation tracks many of the recommendations made in the Independent Budget, IB, for fiscal year 2008. The IB, as it is known, is "the collaborative effort of a united veteran and health advocacy community that presents policy and budget recommendations on programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Labor." It is a guide for how this country should treat its veterans. It is written jointly by AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars and supported by over 50 other prominent organizations. I am very happy to have consulted extensively with the Independent Budget authors to craft this legislation.

For too many years veterans' needs have been sent to the back of the line in Congress behind tax cuts for the rich

and corporate welfare for multinational corporations. This legislation is one step forward in correcting the shortcomings of the way our current system treats veterans. Instead of turning a blind eye to our veterans' needs as has happened often in recent years, this bill begins to say "thank you" with real action.

The Comprehensive Veterans Benefits Improvements Act makes more than 25 separate changes to veterans' programs ranging from disability payments, to insurance premiums, to grants for disabled veterans to adapt their cars to make them easier to use.

We also try to make progress on long standing injustices in the VA and DoD benefit and retirement systems that veterans and their families have fought to correct for years. Among them are:

Category 8 Veterans: In January of 2003 the VA announced that it would no longer allow Category 8 veterans to enroll into the VA health care system. The Administration justified this move on the grounds that these are "higher income" veterans. The truth, however, is that these veterans can make as little as \$27,000 a year. VA estimates that more than 1.5 million category 8 veterans will have been denied enrollment in the VA health care system by fiscal year 2008. This legislation repeals that ban.

Concurrent Receipt: As the Military Officers Association of America explains, the Concurrent Receipt or Disabled Veterans' Tax issue exists because of a "19th century law that required a dollar-for-dollar offset of military retired pay for disability compensation received from the VA . . . Retired pay is earned for a career of uniformed service and VA disability compensation is recompense for pain, suffering and lost future earning power due to service-connected disabilities." For that reason veterans should receive both payments and not have one offset the other. This legislation would allow veterans to receive both compensation/pension benefits and retired or retirement pay.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation-Survivor Benefit Plan Offset: Under current law, the survivors of veterans who die as a result of service-connected causes are entitled to compensation known as dependency and indemnity compensation, DIC. In addition, military retirees can have money deducted from their pay to purchase a survivors annuity. This is called the Survivor Benefit Plan, SBP. However, if the military retirees dies from service-connected causes his or her survivors will receive a SBP payment offset dollar for dollar by the amount of the DIC payment they receive. Like the offset between military retiree pay and VA disability payments, this SBP/DIC offset unfairly denies beneficiaries the full amount of 2 programs that are meant to compensate for different losses. This legislation repeals the offset between dependency and indemnity compensation and the Survivor Benefit Plan.