

of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Streamlining of the Farm Service Agency's Direct Farm Loan Programs; Conforming Changes" (RIN0560-AF60) received on January 7, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4649. 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; Final Rule" (RIN0560-AF60) received on January 7, 2008; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4650. A communication from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's Annual Performance Budget for fiscal year 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4651. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" (72 FR 68748) received on January 8, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4652. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" (72 FR 68750) received on January 8, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4653. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" (72 FR 67663) received on January 8, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4654. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (72 FR 68752) received on January 8, 2008; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4655. A communication from the Secretary, Bureau of Certification and Licensing, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Filing of Proof of Financial Responsibility" (FMC Docket No. 07-06) received on January 8, 2008; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4656. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the use of Federal power allocations by Indian tribes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4657. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Prepaid Qualified Mortgage Insurance Premiums for 2007" (Notice 2008-15) received on January 14, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4658. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2007 Section 832 Salvage Discount Factors" (Rev. Proc. 2008-11) received on January 23, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4659. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, trans-

mitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to projects that will be conducted under the Medicare Hospital Gainsharing Demonstration; to the Committee on Finance.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON JANUARY 22, 2008

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Report to accompany S. 2248, An original bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to modernize and streamline the provisions of that Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-258).

By Mrs. BOXER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

H.R. 735. A bill to designate the Federal building under construction at 799 First Avenue in New York, New York, as the "Ronald H. Brown United States Mission to the United Nations Building".

S. 862. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 210 Walnut Street in Des Moines, Iowa, as the "Neal Smith Federal Building".

S. 1189. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States Courthouse located at 100 East 8th Avenue in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, as the "George Howard, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

## 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. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2545. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare Advantage benchmark adjustment for certain local areas with VA medical centers and for certain contiguous areas; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself and Mr. ALLARD):

S. 2546. A bill to reduce the risks to Colorado communities and water supplies from severe wildfires, especially in areas affected by insect infestations, to provide model legislation that may be applied to other States experiencing similar insect infestations or other forest-related problems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 2547. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce taxes by providing an alternative determination of income tax liability for individuals, repealing the estate and gift taxes, reducing corporate income tax rates, reducing the maximum tax for individuals on capital gains and dividends to 10 percent, indexing the basis of assets for purposes of determining capital gain or loss, creating tax-free accounts for retirement savings, lifetime savings, and life skills, repealing the adjusted gross income threshold in the medical care deduction for individuals under age 65 who have no employer health coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida:

S. 2548. A bill to provide for the payment of interest on claims paid by the United States in connection with the correction of military records when a military corrections board sets aside a conviction by court-martial; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2549. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish an Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice to provide guidance to Federal agencies on the development of criteria for identifying disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2550. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from collecting certain debts owed to the United States by members of the Armed Forces and veterans who die as a result of an injury incurred or aggravated on active duty in a combat zone, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' 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. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. BUNNING):

S. Res. 421. A resolution honoring the 150th anniversary of the American Printing House for the Blind; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. Res. 422. A resolution commending the Louisiana State University Tigers football team for winning the 2007 Bowl Championship Series national championship game; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ALLARD (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. Res. 423. A resolution seeking the return of the USS Pueblo to the United States Navy; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. REID:

S. Res. 424. A resolution electing Lula Johnson Davis, of Maryland, as Secretary for the Majority of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 55

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 55, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the individual alternative minimum tax.

S. 617

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 617, a bill to make the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass available at a discount to certain veterans.

S. 1003

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1003, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to emergency medical services and the quality and efficiency of care furnished in emergency departments of hospitals and critical access hospitals by establishing a bipartisan commission to examine factors that affect the effective

delivery of such services, by providing for additional payments for certain physician services furnished in such emergency departments, and by establishing a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Working Group, and for other purposes.

S. 1172

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1172, a bill to reduce hunger in the United States.

S. 1200

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1200, a bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend the Act.

S. 1335

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 1361

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1361, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the 15-year recovery period for the depreciation of certain leasehold improvements and to modify the depreciation rules relating to such leasehold improvements for purposes of computing earnings and profits.

S. 1668

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1668, a bill to assist in providing affordable housing to those affected by the 2005 hurricanes.

S. 1733

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1733, a bill to authorize funds to prevent housing discrimination through the use of nationwide testing, to increase funds for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1921

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1921, a bill to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2136

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2136, a bill to address the treatment of primary mortgages in bankruptcy, and for other purposes.

S. 2170

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Pennsyl-

vania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2170, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the treatment of qualified restaurant property as 15-year property for purposes of the depreciation deduction.

S. 2181

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2181, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect Medicare beneficiaries' access to home health services under the Medicare program.

S. 2215

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2215, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Protective Security Advisor Program Office.

S. 2252

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2252, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deduction for host families of foreign exchange and other students from \$50 per month to \$200 per month, and for other purposes.

S. 2292

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2292, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to establish the Office for Bombing Prevention, to address terrorist explosive threats, and for other purposes.

S. 2337

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2337, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow long-term care insurance to be offered under cafeteria plans and flexible spending arrangements and to provide additional consumer protections for long-term care insurance.

S. 2367

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2367, a bill to provide for the issuance of bonds to provide funding for the construction of schools of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2426

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2426, a bill to provide for congressional oversight of United States agreements with the Government of Iraq.

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2426, *supra*.

S. 2433

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2433, a bill to require the President to

develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to further the United States foreign policy objective of promoting the reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global poverty, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who live on less than \$1 per day.

S. 2469

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2469, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prevent the granting of regulatory forbearance by default.

S. 2498

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2498, a bill to authorize the minting of a coin to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Santa Fe, New Mexico, to occur in 2010.

S. 2534

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2534, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2650 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, as the "Julia M. Carson Post Office Building".

S. 2544

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 2544, a bill to provide for a program of temporary extended unemployment compensation.

S.J. RES. 27

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 27, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to the line item veto.

AMENDMENT NO. 3857

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3857 intended to be proposed to S. 2248, an original bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to modernize and streamline the provisions of that Act, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3858

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3858 intended to be proposed to S. 2248, an original bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to modernize and streamline the provisions of that Act, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3862

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3862 intended to be proposed to S. 2248, an original bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to modernize and streamline the provisions of that Act, and for other purposes.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3863

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3863 intended to be proposed to S. 2248, an original bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, to modernize and streamline the provisions of that Act, and for other purposes.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2549. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish an Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice to provide guidance to Federal agencies on the development of criteria for identifying disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. President, today I rise to introduce the Environmental Justice Renewal Act, legislation to address the issue of environmental racism that is faced by far too many Americans today.

In our country, we have communities predominantly racial and ethnic minority and low-income communities in which the air is unsafe to breathe, the water unfit to drink, the schools unsafe places to learn.

A 2005 Associated Press analysis of Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, air data found that African Americans were 79 percent more likely than their white counterparts to live in an area where the levels of air pollution posed health risks. About half of lower-income homes in our Nation are located within a mile of factories that report toxic emissions to the EPA. Hispanic and African-American children have lead poisoning rates that are roughly double that of their white counterparts. The evidence clearly documents the disproportionate impact of pollution faced by minority and low-income populations.

For more than a quarter-century, activists have been working to address this disparity in exposure. The work of residents in Warren County, NC, in protesting the placement of a toxic waste site in a predominantly African-American community sparked the modern-day environmental justice movement. Since that time, individuals in all parts of the United States have spoken out about the conditions in their own neighborhoods, and have joined to-

gether with schools, with churches, and with local organizations to create positive change in their communities. But they cannot act alone. The Federal Government has a clear role in reducing and eliminating the disparate pollution burden placed upon racial and ethnic minorities and low-income populations.

This role has been acknowledged by the Federal Government by individuals on both sides of the aisle. Under the first Bush administration, the EPA released several reports on what was then known as environmental equity, now called environmental justice. President Clinton promulgated Executive Order 12898, titled "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," which directed federal agencies to account for the ways in which their activities would impact low-income and minority communities. The Federal Government took action to ensure that environmental justice was part of the mission of its agencies.

But under the current Bush administration, the EPA has not lived up to its motto "to protect human health and the environment." Because of their inaction on environmental justice, too many minority and low-income Americans lack equal access to protections that safeguard health, well being, and potential of children and families.

A 2004 report from the EPA's Office of the Inspector General found the following: "EPA has not fully implemented Executive Order 12898 nor consistently integrated environmental justice into its day-to-day operations."

In 2005, the Government Accountability Office released a report concluding that the agency has failed to consider environmental justice in making rules that protect families from environmental degradation and pollution.

In 2006, the Office of the Inspector General released another report on the EPA's environmental justice record, concluding that EPA senior management had not "sufficiently directed program and regional offices to conduct environmental justice reviews."

Earlier this year, the United Church of Christ released a report, Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty, which stated: "Environmental Justice faltered and became invisible at the EPA under the George W. Bush Administration."

The Environmental Justice Renewal Act will address the rollbacks that have taken place during this Administration, and once again focus federal attention and resources on environmental justice.

It will revitalize the Interagency Working Group, IWG, on Environmental Justice, codifying the IWG and requiring biennial assessments of their efforts by the Government Accountability Office, to ensure that all agencies are completing goals and following timelines identified in each agency's environmental justice strategy.

It will establish new and expand current grant programs. With this additional funding, community groups can address the complicated health, environmental, and economic components of the pollution problems in their neighborhoods. The legislation will help states, tribes and territories develop and implement environmental justice strategies and policies. It will strengthen the technical assistance available to communities, by developing web-based Environmental Justice Clearinghouse.

This bill will increase the number of federal employees who have received environmental justice training, and who are able to incorporate environmental justice into their daily activities, such as permit review. In addition, it would establish a training program for community members modeled after the existing Superfund training programs to help affected individuals gain the skills needed to identify and monitor environmental concerns in their local areas.

Finally, the bill will increase public awareness of and participation in environmental justice activities, requiring the EPA to routinely hold community-based outreach meetings and ensuring increased interaction with the National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, which represents stakeholders and impacted communities. It will also establish the position of Environmental Justice Ombudsman at the EPA, in order to receive, review, and process comments about the environmental justice work of the agency.

Groups supporting the legislation include the Sierra Club, ReGenesis, the Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, Earthjustice, the Indigenous Environmental Network, and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

We have neglected this issue for far too long, and it is time to once again ensure that the federal government works to reduce and eliminate these disparities that exist in our minority and low-income communities. I look forward to joining my colleagues in the Senate to get this enacted into law.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

## SENATE RESOLUTION 421—HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN PRINTING HOUSE FOR THE BLIND

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. BUNNING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

## S. RES. 421

Whereas the American Printing House for the Blind was chartered in 1858 in Louisville, Kentucky by the General Assembly of Kentucky through An Act to Establish the American Printing House for the Blind, in response to a growing national need for books and educational aids for blind students;