

S. 2551. A bill to provide for the safe development of a repository at the Yucca Mountain site in the State of Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

S. 2552. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a stimulus to small business by increasing expensing for small businesses in 2008, extending the length of the carryback period for net operating losses during 2007 and 2008, and extending the research and development credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2553. A bill to modify certain fees applicable under the Small Business Act for 2008, to make an emergency appropriation for certain small business programs, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide increased expensing for 2008, to provide a 5-year carryback for certain net operating losses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DODD, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. AKAKA, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 2554. A bill to restore, reaffirm, and reconcile legal rights and remedies under civil rights statutes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. DODD, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2555. A bill to permit California and other States to effectively control greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2556. A bill to extend the provisions of the Protect America Act of 2007 for an additional 30 days; read the first time.

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:

S. Res. 425. A resolution making party appointments for the 110th Congress; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 60

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 60, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide a means for continued improvement in emergency medical services for children.

S. 719

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 719, a bill to amend section 10501 of title 49, United States Code, to exclude solid waste disposal

from the jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Board.

S. 773

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 773, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 1128

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1128, a bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a Summer of Service State grant program, a Summer of Service national direct grant program, and related national activities, and for other purposes.

S. 1200

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) 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. 1708

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1708, a bill to provide for the expansion of Federal efforts concerning the prevention, education, treatment, and research activities related to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, including the establishment of a Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1906, a bill to understand and comprehensively address the oral health problems associated with methamphetamine use.

S. 1907

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1907, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to understand and comprehensively address the inmate oral health problems associated with methamphetamine use, and for other purposes.

S. 2063

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2063, a bill to establish a Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action, to assure the economic security of the United States, and to expand future prosperity and growth for all Americans.

S. 2141

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2141, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome prevention and services program, and for other purposes.

S. 2159

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2159, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

S. 2337

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) 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. 2424

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2424, a bill to ensure that all Americans have basic health literacy skills to function effectively as patients and health care consumers.

S. 2426

At the request of Mr. CASEY, 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 Mr. WEBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2426, supra.

S. 2494

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2494, a bill to provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and for other purposes.

S. 2543

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2543, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 2544

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) 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 Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) 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.

S. RES. 178

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 178, a resolution expressing the sympathy of the Senate to the families of women and girls murdered in Guatemala, and encouraging the United States to work with Guatemala to bring an end to these crimes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3857

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) 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. 3863

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) 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. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BOND, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2551. A bill to provide for the safe development of a repository at the Yucca Mountain site in the State of Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2008.

I have said many times on this Senate floor that we do have a crisis in energy and that we need all of the following: We need nuclear energy, but we also need clean coal technology, we need oil and gas, we need renewables. We need all of the above. I feel very strongly about this, and I know there is a disagreement on that issue, even within our committee. But I am concerned about the continued delays in opening our Nation's repository at Yucca Mountain, that it would hinder the resurgence of nuclear energy in the United States. It seems as though right now we are making a major breakthrough. People who were objecting to nuclear energy just a few years ago are now realizing that it is clean, it is safe,

it is abundant. Not that I use France as our model very often, but in this case, they are between 80 and 90 percent nuclear, and they have done the right thing.

A bit of history on this. The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 established a program to locate and develop a repository for nuclear waste, including both Defense waste, a legacy from the Cold War, and civilian spent fuel. In 2002, after 20 years of research, the President recommended to the Congress that Yucca Mountain should be developed as the repository. The State of Nevada objected. I wasn't surprised to see that happen, and it did. It certainly is their right to do so under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act. However, Congress passed a joint resolution affirming or reaffirming the administration's recommendation of Yucca Mountain with strong bipartisan majorities in both Houses.

The location has been decided. The debate is no longer in existence of whether a repository should be built at Yucca Mountain. That decision was made in 2002. The task that remains is to develop a repository that protects public health and safety and the environment, a permanent solution for our Nation's nuclear waste. It is high time we accomplish these tasks now. This is very serious. We passed laws and resolutions to do it. We have collected over \$27 billion—that is with a “b”—\$27 billion for electricity from consumers to pay for it. The courts have affirmed and reaffirmed that we have the obligation—not the legal right to do it, the legal obligation.

Now, I am frustrated that the Department of Energy is 20 years behind schedule. However, I am pleased that DOE appears to have made significant progress in the past few years and will hopefully file a license application this year, despite the persistent assault on program funding.

I understand that opposition to Yucca Mountain remains, advocating that we abandon it in favor of interim storage. There have been many proposals on interim storage, and I expect there will be more in the future, but we have interim storage right now at 121 locations in 39 States. Make no mistake, interim storage is a temporary fix. It forces future generations to solve a problem that we ought to be resolving today. It is time to move forward with a permanent solution at Yucca Mountain.

I have visited the site. I have a question for those who would want to abandon Yucca Mountain: If you can't build a repository in the middle of a mountain in the middle of a desert, where should it be?

Let's think about this for a minute. The logical first step to finding a new repository site is to begin by reevaluating sites that have been considered before. I have a map—which is not here, but it will be here before I finish talking—showing the 37 States that DOE and its predecessor, the Energy

Research Development Administration, have evaluated in the past based on the presence of favorable geologic formations. Those States are Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, and it goes on and on, including my State of Oklahoma—37 of the 50 States. Now, 37 States have been considered as possible candidates for developing a repository. Does it really make sense to abandon a site where we have already invested 25 years and \$8 billion before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission even considers it, only to turn around and start from scratch, reevaluating sites in 37 States? I don't think so.

As the generation that has benefited from the use of nuclear energy and the resulting spent fuel, I believe it is incumbent upon us to manage spent fuel in a manner that is fair to current generations and generations to come, and the bill I am introducing now will do just that.

DOE has indicated there are legislative provisions they need to complete the licensing process and begin construction of the repository our electricity consumers have paid some \$27 billion for already. Senators DOMENICI and CRAIG introduced their NU-WAY bill, S. 37, which includes those provisions within the jurisdiction of Environment and Public Works. My bill includes the remaining DOE provisions that are within the jurisdiction of the Environment and Public Works Committee. My bill goes beyond that. My bill will incorporate a flexible framework for future generations to apply their knowledge and innovations to improve the repository.

The task at hand is to develop a safe repository using state-of-the-art technology and cutting-edge science. The trouble is technology that is state of the art now won't be 50 years from now, much less 100 years from now. When you are making decisions on how to develop a facility that will be safe for up to a million years, we should not limit ourselves to science and technology that is available today. We should establish a flexible framework that incorporates technological advances into the facility design over time, one that allows our grandchildren and great-grandchildren to improve on the project we have started. In other words, we know that even though we are using the million-year benchmark, things are going to happen next year and the year after and the year after where we can have dramatic improvements. But the one thing we have to do is make the decision today—or keep the decision that has already been made.

Several international bodies, including the National Academy of Sciences and the International Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Nuclear Energy Agency, have advocated repository development in stages that will incorporate technological advances over time—just what