

Square 1346, S.O. 06-9107, Act of 2008" received on April 23, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6003. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-342, "Loretta Carter Hanes Pesticide Consumer Notification Amendment Act of 2008" received on April 23, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6004. A communication from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 17-343, "Ballpark Public Safety Amendment Act of 2008" received on April 23, 2008; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-315. A resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County of the State of Florida urging the Florida Legislature to pass the "Florida Restaurants Lending a Helping Hand Act"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

POM-316. A resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County of the State of Florida urging the Florida Legislature to repeal the 2011 Sunset of Miami-Dade Affordable Housing Surtax Program; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

POM-317. A resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County of the State of Florida urging the Florida Legislature to pass legislation allowing forensic employees to purchase additional retirement credits; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

POM-318. A resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County of the State of Florida urging the Florida Legislature to pass legislation requiring health insurance policies to cover treatments for autism; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

POM-319. A resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County of the State of Florida urging the Florida Legislature to declare the month of March 2008 as Lions Eye Bank Month; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

POM-320. A resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County of the State of Florida urging the Florida Legislature to pass legislation allowing voters with no party affiliation to vote in any party primary; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

POM-321. A resolution adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County of the State of Florida urging the Florida Legislature to provide additional flexibility in making partial payments of property taxes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

Report to accompany S. 431, a bill to require convicted sex offenders to register on-

line identifiers, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-332).

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. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2921. A bill to require pilot programs on training and certification for family caregiver personal care attendants for veterans and members of the Armed Forces with traumatic brain injury, to require a pilot program on provision of respite care to such veterans and members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (by request):

S. 2922. A bill to repeal certain oil and gas incentives established in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 2923. A bill to provide for a three-year extension of the Senior oversight Committee on wounded warrior matters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 2924. A bill to authorize the production of Saint-Gaudens Double Eagle ultra-high relief bullion coins in palladium to provide affordable opportunities for investments in precious metals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2925. A bill to provide for research into the development of energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy technologies and to foster the introduction of energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy technologies into the marketplace, with the goal of reducing United States oil imports; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 2926. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify and update provisions of law relating to nonprofit research and education corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. BOND):

S. 2927. A bill to increase the supply and lower the cost of petroleum by temporarily suspending the acquisition of petroleum for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to include additional acquisition requirements for the Reserve; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KOHL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. Res. 534. A resolution designating the month of May 2008 as "National Drug Court Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON for herself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BAYH, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. CASEY):

S. Res. 535. A resolution recognizing April 28, 2008, as "National Healthy Schools Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CARPER, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. BOXER, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 536. A resolution recognizing the 15th anniversary of the founding of Seeds of Peace, an organization promoting understanding, reconciliation, acceptance, coexistence, and peace in the Middle East, South Asia, and other regions of conflict; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KOHL):

S. Res. 537. A resolution commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. Res. 538. A resolution designating April 30, 2008, as "Dia de los Ninos: Celebrating Young Americans", and for other purposes; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. Con. Res. 78. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the People's Republic of China and all enterprises owned or controlled by the People's Republic of China should make proper disclosures with the Securities and Exchange Commission regarding the selective default status of certain bonds; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 186

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 186, a bill to provide appropriate protection to attorney-client privileged communications and attorney work product.

S. 223

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. 223, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 380

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 380, a bill to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

S. 638

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 638, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 678

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 678, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to ensure air passengers have access to necessary services while on a grounded air carrier and are not unnecessarily held on a grounded air carrier before or after a flight, and for other purposes.

S. 932

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 932, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize physical therapists to evaluate and treat Medicare beneficiaries without a requirement for a physician referral, and for other purposes.

S. 1232

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1232, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop a voluntary policy for managing the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools, to establish school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes.

S. 1675

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1675, a bill to implement the recommendations of the Federal Communications Commission report to the Congress regarding low-power FM service.

S. 1755

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1755, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to make permanent the summer food service pilot project for rural areas of Pennsylvania and apply the program to rural areas of every State.

S. 2314

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2314, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make geothermal heat pump systems eligible for the energy credit and the residential energy efficient property credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2337

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) 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. 2369

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2369, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide that certain tax planning inventions are not patentable, and for other purposes.

S. 2407

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2407, a bill to provide for programs that reduce the need for abortion, help women bear healthy children, and support new parents.

S. 2426

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, her 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.

S. 2575

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2575, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to remove certain limitations on the transfer of entitlement to basic educational assistance under Montgomery GI Bill, and for other purposes.

S. 2619

At the request of Mr. COBURN, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) were added as cosponsors of S. 2619, a bill to protect innocent Americans from violent crime in national parks.

S. 2681

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2681, a bill to require the issuance of medals to recognize the dedication and valor of Native American code talkers.

S. 2688

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2688, a bill to improve the protections afforded under Federal law to consumers from contaminated seafood by directing the Secretary of Commerce to establish a program, in coordination with other appropriate Federal agencies, to strengthen activities for ensuring that seafood sold or offered for sale to the public in or affecting interstate commerce is fit for human consumption.

S. 2726

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont

(Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2726, a bill to amend the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to help offset the costs of intrastate transportation, storage, and distribution of bonus commodities provided to States and food assistance agencies under the emergency food assistance program.

S. 2758

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2758, a bill to authorize the exploration, leasing, development, production, and economically feasible and prudent transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain in Alaska.

S. 2766

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2766, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to address certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of a recreational vessel.

S. 2785

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2785, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Security Act to preserve access to physicians' services under the Medicare program.

S. 2819

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2819, a bill to preserve access to Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program during an economic downturn, and for other purposes.

S. 2836

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2836, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to include service after September 11, 2001, as service qualifying for the determination of a reduced eligibility age for receipt of non-regular service retired pay.

S. 2867

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2867, a bill to authorize additional resources to identify and eliminate illicit sources of firearms smuggled into Mexico for use by violent drug trafficking organizations, and for other purposes.

S. 2874

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2874, a bill to amend titles 5, 10, 37, and 38, United States Code, to ensure the fair treatment of a member of the Armed Forces who is discharged from

the Armed Forces, at the request of the member, pursuant to the Department of Defense policy permitting the early discharge of a member who is the only surviving child in a family in which the father or mother, or one or more siblings, served in the Armed Forces and, because of hazards incident to such service, was killed, died as a result of wounds, accident, or disease, is in a captured or missing in action status, or is permanently disabled, and for other purposes.

S. 2886

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2886, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to amend certain expiring provisions.

S. 2895

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2895, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to maintain eligibility, for Federal PLUS loans, of borrowers who are 90 or more days delinquent on mortgage loan payments, or for whom foreclosure proceedings have been initiated, with respect to their primary residence.

S. 2899

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2899, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on suicides among veterans.

S. 2919

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2919, a bill to promote the accurate transmission of network traffic identification information.

S. 2920

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2920, a bill to reauthorize and improve the financing and entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 523

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 523, a resolution expressing the strong support of the Senate for the declaration of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization at the Bucharest Summit that Ukraine and Georgia will become members of the alliance.

S. RES. 533

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S.

Res. 533, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the political situation in Zimbabwe.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BINGAMAN (by request):

S. 2922. A bill to repeal certain oil and gas incentives established in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce by request a bill transmitted by the Administration that would eliminate mandatory royalty relief incentives for the oil and gas industry on the Outer Continental Shelf, OCS, in the Gulf of Mexico. I share the administration's position that these royalty incentives should not apply to future OCS oil and gas lease sales on a mandatory basis.

Section 344 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, EPAct, requires the Secretary of the Interior to provide for royalty relief for the production of deep gas from the OCS. Section 345 of EPAct requires the Secretary to extend royalty relief for oil and gas produced from deep water of the OCS. Under these provisions, at certain prices a set quantity of federally-owned oil and gas is allowed to be produced without any royalty payment by industry to the United States. Similar royalty relief language, included in legislation enacted in 1995, has given rise to circumstances that may expose the Treasury to up to an estimated \$60 billion in forgone royalty revenues.

Neither deep gas nor deep water royalty relief is warranted in this price climate. Last year, the administration requested that these incentives be repealed. The President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2009 renews this request. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and a letter of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2922

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REPEAL OF CERTAIN OIL AND GAS INCENTIVES.

Sections 344 and 345 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15904, 15905) are repealed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,

Washington, DC, April 7, 2008.

Hon. JEFF BINGAMAN,

Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Enclosed is a copy of the letter sent to the President of the Senate on August 20, 2007, urging the Senate to consider legislation "to repeal certain oil and gas incentives contained in the Energy Policy Act of 2005." This legislative proposal would end the mandatory royalty relief incentives for future OCS lease sales.

I want to make sure that you are aware of the significance and time sensitivity of this legislative proposal. The next Gulf of Mexico lease sale is scheduled in August of 2008. By law, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) must publish a final notice of sale with final terms and conditions, including royalty relief incentives, at least 30 days prior to the sale. To ensure that any legislative changes are reflected in the final notice of sale for the August sale, this issue must be resolved by July 1.

Please note that an immediate repeal of the mandatory royalty relief is supported by the Administration. Provisions to support the repeal are included in the President's Fiscal Year 2008 budget and cleared by the Office of Management and Budget. Prompt action is now needed by Congress if the repeal of the mandatory royalty relief is to be included in the fast approaching Gulf of Mexico sale.

Your immediate attention would be greatly appreciated. I am personally available to discuss this legislation with you and answer any questions you or your staff may have.

Sincerely,

C. STEPHEN ALLRED,

Assistant Secretary,

Land and Minerals Management.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,

Washington, DC, April 20, 2007.

Hon. RICHARD B. CHENEY,

President of the Senate,

Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Enclosed is a draft bill, "to repeal certain oil and gas incentives contained in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and for other purposes."

I recommend that the draft bill be introduced, referred to the appropriate committee for consideration, and enacted.

The repeal of sections 344 and 345 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Energy Policy Act) has been proposed in the President's Fiscal Year 2008 budget. Section 344 of the Energy Policy Act extended existing deep gas incentives by mandating a royalty suspension volume of at least 35 billion cubic feet of natural gas for certain wells completed at depths greater than 20,000 feet sub-sea on leases located in 0-400 meters of water. Section 344 also directed that the same methodology used to calculate suspension volumes in the Minerals Management Service's 2004 rule for wells completed between 15,000 feet and 20,000 feet sub-sea on leases in 0-200 meters of water be applied to leases in 200-400 meters of water. Section 345 of the Energy Policy Act provided mandatory royalty suspension volumes for leases in water depths greater than 400 meters issued in the first five years after the Energy Policy Act's enactment (August 8, 2005–August 8, 2010).

Repeal of Sections 344 and 345 of the Energy Policy Act would eliminate incentives and royalty relief that we believe are unwarranted in today's price environment.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that the enactment of this draft bill would be in accord with the program of the President.

An identical letter is being sent to the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

C. STEPHEN ALLRED,

Assistant Secretary,

Land and Minerals Management.

A BILL

To repeal certain oil and gas incentives contained in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and for other purposes.