

shall submit a report containing the results of the evaluation to Congress.

(b) FEDERAL CONFERENCE.—Not less often than once every 2 years, the Secretary shall hold a conference for advisory panels described in section 4(b)(5), to share information on best practices relating to education portal initiatives.

(c) STATE EVALUATIONS.—Each State that receives a grant under this Act shall conduct an evaluation of the initiative funded under the grant, using funds provided as part of the non-Federal share of the costs described in section 3(a). The State shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a report containing the results of the evaluation.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2012, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the following 2 fiscal years.

SEC. 9. SPECIAL RULES RELATING TO CORPORATE CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION PORTAL PROJECTS OF ELIGIBLE STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of Section 170(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (related to percentage limitations) is amended by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively, and by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

“(B) SPECIAL RULE FOR CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION PORTAL PROJECTS OF ELIGIBLE STATES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of qualified education portal project contributions—

“(I) subparagraph (A) shall be applied separately with respect to such contributions and with respect to other charitable contributions of the taxpayer, and

“(II) in applying subparagraph (A) to such qualified education portal project contributions, subparagraph (A) shall be applied by substituting ‘50 percent’ for ‘10 percent’.

“(ii) QUALIFIED EDUCATION PORTAL PROJECT CONTRIBUTION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘qualified education portal project contribution’ means a charitable contribution in cash—

“(I) to a State (as defined in section 2 of the Empowering Teaching and Learning Through Education Portals Act) which has a grant application approved under section 4 of such Act, and

“(II) for the purpose of paying the non-Federal share of the cost of implementing and maintaining education portal initiatives (within the meaning of section 3 of such Act.”).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to contributions made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. BIDEN (for himself and Mr. LUGAR) (by request):

S.J. Res. 42. A joint resolution relating to the approval of the proposed agreement for nuclear cooperation between the United States and the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 2159, for not to exceed 45 calendar days.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today Senator LUGAR and I introduce, by request, a resolution of approval of the proposed agreement for peaceful nuclear cooperation between the United States and the Russian Federation, which the President transmitted to Congress on May 13, 2008, pursuant to sections 123b. and 123d. of the Atomic

Energy Act. Pursuant to section 130i.(2) of that Act, the majority and minority leaders have designated Senator LUGAR and me to introduce this resolution.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 598—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE NEED FOR THE UNITED STATES TO LEAD RENEWED INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO ASSIST DEVELOPING NATIONS IN CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES AND PREVENTING THE IMPENDING EXTINCTION OF A LARGE PORTION OF THE WORLD’S PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. KERRY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BAYH, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 598

Whereas scientists estimate that approximately $\frac{1}{10}$ of the world’s known biological diversity is currently in danger of extinction, including at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of all mammals, $\frac{1}{3}$ of all primates, $\frac{1}{5}$ of all amphibians, and $\frac{1}{6}$ of all birds;

Whereas scientists have concluded that the initial stages of a major worldwide extinction event are occurring now and have estimated that by the end of the 21st century as much as $\frac{3}{4}$ of the world’s plant and animal species could be in danger of extinction;

Whereas scientists estimate that approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the world’s terrestrial plant and animal species reside in whole or in part in developing nations, where in many cases poor management of natural resources has exacerbated the threat of extinction to many species and directly harmed local communities;

Whereas, in addition to producing 20 percent of the world’s carbon emissions, unsustainable forestry practices and illegal logging operations have led to the destruction of vast areas of forested land around the world, which, in turn, has led to species loss, increased flooding, erosion, insect infestations, and higher incidences of malaria and other infectious diseases;

Whereas the degradation of the marine environment and unsustainable fishing practices in many parts of the world have led to dramatic declines of many fish and other marine species;

Whereas the introduction of invasive species threatens natural habitats;

Whereas scientists have concluded that many species could face an increased risk of extinction from global climate change;

Whereas sound natural resource management and the conservation of species and habitats are vital to alleviating poverty for many communities in developing countries that depend on these resources for their livelihoods, food, medicinal compounds, housing material, and other necessities;

Whereas there are significant risks to the global and national economies from the destruction of natural resources around the world and the valuable services they provide, such as water and air purification, soil fertility and erosion control, flood and drought

mitigation, protection from storm surges, and the sequestration of carbon;

Whereas human encroachment into natural ecosystems increases opportunities for the emergence and transmission of new animal-borne diseases that could cause high levels of human mortality and affect major global industries including travel, trade, tourism, food production, and finance;

Whereas loss of species can jeopardize important future pharmaceutical discoveries, given that more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of all medicinal drugs possess active ingredients from wild species and that at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the most prescribed medicines in the United States are derived from natural compounds;

Whereas natural pollinators and the opportunities of wild and domesticated cross-breeding are vital to world and United States agriculture;

Whereas poverty aggravated by natural resource degradation contributes to political instability, ethnic and sectarian conflict, and the social conditions that can fuel increased violence and terrorism;

Whereas the extinction of plant and animal species raises profound ethical questions, and many religious traditions call upon human beings to act as good stewards of the Earth;

Whereas opportunities for sustainably managing natural resources and conserving viable populations of species and their habitats rapidly diminish every year;

Whereas a substantial body of academic and field research has identified global strategies and market based approaches for better managing natural resources and protecting biological diversity;

Whereas strategic large-scale and site-specific habitat conservation could help to buffer the impacts of climate change on endangered species and human communities;

Whereas an effective international conservation effort that ensures the use of natural resources on a sustainable basis and prevents the worst predicted extinction scenarios from unfolding will require commitment and action from all nations; and

Whereas the United States’s traditional role in confronting international challenges, protecting the environment, expanding opportunities for people, and articulating a moral vision for global action gives the Nation the opportunity to lead an international conservation effort: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Government should make full use of Federal laws, regulations and policies, diplomatic agreements, and other appropriate mechanisms to—

(A) identify global conservation goals that help ensure the sustainable use of natural resources and protect biological diversity in terrestrial and marine environments of developing countries;

(B) focus international conservation efforts on natural areas that are important biodiversity conservation priorities and for which there is a good likelihood of success;

(C) raise the international profile of the debate by putting the issue of rapidly declining global biodiversity and poor natural resource management on the agenda of major international decision-making bodies;

(D) work with other donor nations to increase funding and other support for global conservation strategies that focus on achieving each of the goals identified in subparagraphs (A) through (C); and

(E) achieve meaningful progress in the next 5 years toward the goals identified in subparagraphs (A) through (C);

(2) the United States should use diplomatic mechanisms, relevant international institutions and agreements, and other appropriate mechanisms to lead other nations toward the

goals and actions identified in paragraph (1); and

(3) the efforts of Federal agencies should reflect a recognition of the extreme urgency of the problem and recognize that opportunities for increased conservation are rapidly dwindling, by annually providing to the appropriate Committees of Congress progress reports and action plans with regard to the goals and activities identified in paragraphs (1) and (2).

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, the evidence is clear. We stand at the brink of major losses among the living species on our planet. By the end of this century, as many as two out of every three plant and animal species could be in danger of extinction. This disturbing trend has many causes, but several are clear and manmade—they are our responsibility and they are within our control.

Our industrial emissions are changing our world's climate and, in so doing, drastically altering habitats—habitats already threatened by deforestation and other landuse changes. Unsustainable fishing and the spread of invasive species due to enhanced global commerce pose similar manmade challenges.

That is why I am introducing, along with Senators SNOWE, BOXER, LUGAR, KERRY, SPECTER, MENENDEZ, BROWNEBACK, BAYH, STABENOW, and FEINGOLD, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should take a leadership role in protecting international biodiversity. With one out of every ten species facing extinction, with habitats declining, and with developing countries searching to build a better economic future while protecting their natural environments, now is the time for renewed efforts to protect our living world.

This morning, my colleagues and I hosted a briefing by Dr. Edward O. Wilson, renowned University Research Professor Emeritus at Harvard and author of two Pulitzer Prize-winning books, and Dr. Eric Chivian, who shared the Nobel Peace Prize and is Founder and Director of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School. These two eminent scientists made the case that biodiversity is not just a moral, ecological, and economic issue, but also one of major importance to human health.

We often find, Mr. President, that the areas most in danger are in developing nations, which have the least ability to protect them. Developing nations face very real economic and human challenges. Many are struggling to provide enough food for their people, especially given the recent rise in food prices. They now face the choice between feeding their people and preserving their environment. We know how that will turn out. We must give them another choice.

To do that, the United States and other wealthy nations must help. The 10 colleagues with whom I worked on this resolution understand that protecting our global biodiversity is actu-

ally in our own national interest. Sustainable agricultural practices promise sustainable economies in the developing world. A stable climate will reduce the threat of water shortages, shifting growing seasons, population movements, and resource wars. Protecting habitats not only protects the rich diversity of life on earth—protecting habitats will preserve some of the most basic building blocks of our economies and societies.

Not least, as Dr. Wilson and Dr. Chivian so persuasively argue, the preservation of biodiversity is an investment in human health. More than a quarter of the world's medicinal drugs possess active ingredients from wild species, and more than half of the most prescribed medicines in the United States are based on natural compounds. If we hope to advance medicine, to ease pain and suffering and to extend lifespans, the bounty of nature offers an indispensable guide and resource.

Finally, we have a moral obligation to protect biodiversity. Ensuring that we can feed and clothe and shelter millions more people while preserving the elaborate tapestry of creation will allow our children and grandchildren to inherit the rich planet that we were bequeathed. Species extinctions are nothing new. But species extinctions that are avoidable, that are within our power to prevent, extinctions due to our greed, or our ignorance, impose on us a special responsibility. Those are mistakes that can never be undone. We must resolve to do all we can to replace greed with a better calculation of our long-term interests. We must resolve to replace ignorance with knowledge and with wisdom.

That is why my colleagues and I are offering the resolution, to express the will of the Senate to redouble United States efforts internationally to protect our world in all its complexity, and diversity.

SENATE RESOLUTION 599—EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE TO THOSE AFFECTED BY THE TRAGIC EVENTS FOLLOWING THE TORNADO THAT HIT THE LITTLE SIOUX SCOUT RANCH IN LITTLE SIOUX, IOWA, ON JUNE 11, 2008.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 599

Whereas, on the evening of June 11, 2008, a tornado struck the Little Sioux Scout Ranch in Little Sioux, Iowa;

Whereas 4 lives were tragically lost, and many other people were injured;

Whereas Boy Scouts and Boy Scout leaders at the camp showed great heroism and courage in providing aid and assistance to their fellow Scouts;

Whereas the first responders, firefighters, and law enforcement, and medical personnel worked valiantly to help provide care and comfort to those who were injured;

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America will continue to feel the loss and remember the courage of the Boy Scouts who were at the Little Sioux Scout Ranch the evening of June 11, 2008;

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America will continue to develop young men who show the character, strength, and bravery that was demonstrated by the Boy Scouts at the Little Sioux Scout Ranch on the evening of June 11, 2008; and

Whereas the people of Nebraska and Iowa have embraced those affected and will continue to offer support to the families of those who were lost and injured; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who lost their lives in the terrible events of June 11, 2008, at the Little Sioux Scout Ranch in Little Sioux, Iowa; Sam Thomsen, Josh Fennen, and Ben Petrzilka of Omaha, Nebraska, and Aaron Eilerts of Eagle Grove, Iowa;

(2) shares its thoughts and prayers for a full recovery for all those who were injured;

(3) commends the Boy Scouts of America for the support the organization has provided to the families and friends of those who were lost and injured;

(4) extends its thanks to the first responders, firefighters, and law enforcement, and medical personnel who took quick action to provide aid and comfort to the victims; and

(5) stands with the people of Nebraska and Iowa as they begin the healing process following this terrible event.

SENATE RESOLUTION 600—COMMEMORATING THE 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATHS OF CIVIL RIGHTS WORKERS ANDREW GOODMAN, JAMES CHANEY, AND MICHAEL SCHWERNER IN PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI, WHILE WORKING IN THE NAME OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY TO REGISTER VOTERS AND SECURE CIVIL RIGHTS DURING THE SUMMER OF 1964, WHICH HAS BECOME KNOWN AS “FREEDOM SUMMER”

Mr. REID (for Mr. OBAMA (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. SCHUMER)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 600

Whereas 44 years ago, on June 21, 1964, Andrew Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner were murdered in Philadelphia, Mississippi, while working in the name of American democracy to register voters and secure civil rights during the summer of 1964, which has become known as “Freedom Summer”;

Whereas Andrew Goodman was a 20-year-old White anthropology major at New York's Queens College, who volunteered for the “Freedom Summer” project;

Whereas James Chaney, from Meridian, Mississippi, was a 21-year-old African-American civil rights activist who joined the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in 1963 to work on voter education and registration;

Whereas Michael “Mickey” Schwerner, from Brooklyn, New York, was a 24-year-old White CORE field secretary in Mississippi and a veteran of the civil rights movement;

Whereas in 1964, Mississippi had a Black voting-age population of 450,000, but only 16,000 Blacks were registered to vote;