

(Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1661, a bill to communicate United States travel policies and improve marketing and other activities designed to increase travel in the United States from abroad.

S. 1843

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1843, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 to clarify that an unlawful practice occurs each time compensation is paid pursuant to a discriminatory compensation decision or other practice, and for other purposes.

S. 1906

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1906, a bill to understand and comprehensively address the oral health problems associated with methamphetamine use.

S. 2071

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2071, a bill to enhance the ability to combat methamphetamine.

S. 2173

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2173, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve standards for physical education.

S. 2314

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) 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. 2368

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2368, a bill to provide immigration reform by securing America's borders, clarifying and enforcing existing laws, and enabling a practical employer verification program.

S. 2408

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2408, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require physician utilization of the Medicare electronic prescription drug program.

S. 2433

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, his 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 pro-

moting 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. 2550

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 2559

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2559, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to increase the level of earnings under which no individual who is blind is determined to have demonstrated an ability to engage in substantial gainful activity for purposes of determining disability.

S. 2561

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2561, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a theme study to identify sites and resources to commemorate and interpret the Cold War.

S. 2566

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) were added as cosponsors of S. 2566, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a Federal income tax credit for certain home purchases.

S. 2577

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2577, a bill to establish background check procedures for gun shows.

S. 2578

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2578, a bill to temporarily delay application of proposed changes to Medicaid payment rules for case management and targeted case management services.

S. RES. 432

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE), the

Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 432, a resolution urging the international community to provide the United Nations-African Union Mission in Sudan with essential tactical and utility helicopters.

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 432, supra.

S. RES. 434

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 434, a resolution designating the week of February 10-16, 2008, as "National Drug Prevention and Education Week".

AMENDMENT NO. 3938

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3938 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. 3941

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3941 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. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. DOMENICI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SALAZAR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. AKAKA, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2593. A bill to establish a program at the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to carry out collaborative ecological restoration treatments for priority forest landscapes on public land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, today, I am introducing the Forest Landscape Restoration Act. I developed this bill with Senators DOMENICI and FEINSTEIN, and I am pleased they have joined as cosponsors. The bill also is cosponsored by Senators ALLARD, WYDEN, SALAZAR, CANTWELL, CRAIG, AKAKA, and CRAPO. I also am pleased that Chairman GRIJALVA will be introducing a companion bill in the House of Representatives, and I look forward to working with him as his subcommittee in the Natural Resources Committee moves forward with the bill.

The bill establishes a program to select and fund projects that restore forests at a landscape scale through a

process that encourages collaboration, relies on the best available science, facilitates local economic development, and leverages local funds with national and private funding.

As many of my colleagues know, we are facing serious forest health and wildfire challenges in many of our National Forests. A century of over-aggressive fire suppression, logging, and other land uses have significantly deteriorated entire landscapes. These conditions have played an important role in the extraordinary wildfires and insect-caused mortality we have seen on millions of acres of National Forest and other lands. To address these problems, it is critical to begin trying to restore our forests at a landscape scale.

Landscape-scale restoration is important because, first, it is key to controlling wildfire suppression costs, which is one of the issues that is emphasized in our bill. Wildland fire appropriations have more than tripled in the last decade, and we are now spending billions every year trying to suppress fires. We will not be able to get control of the ballooning costs of fire suppression until we can allow more fires to play their natural, beneficial role in restoring and maintaining healthy, fire-resilient forests. But that will not be possible until we can reduce hazardous fuels and the risk of unnaturally intense fire on a landscape scale.

So, our bill will help to reduce wildfire suppression costs through forest restoration.

Second, landscape-scale restoration is an important component of successful economic development, another issue we have emphasized in our bill. In many cases, forest restoration will not be fiscally viable unless we can put the byproducts of restoration to economic use. Large-scale forest restoration efforts can help to provide economies of scale, and long-term efforts can help to provide entrepreneurs with the confidence that encourages investment and initiative.

So, our bill will help to make the restoration economy a reality by facilitating the use of restoration byproducts.

Third, landscape restoration is necessary for the health of many of our forest ecosystems, which also is emphasized in our bill. We need healthy landscapes for a clean, abundant, and controlled water supply. We need them for clean air and carbon sequestration. We need them to support fish and wildlife. And we need healthy forest ecosystems if they are to have a chance to survive the pressures of climate change. Fire suppression and other land uses have caused entire forest landscapes to deteriorate, and we cannot reverse that deterioration without landscape-level restoration.

So, our bill provides a unique program to conduct comprehensive ecosystem restoration through landscape-scale treatments.

Our bill also builds upon the existing successes in forest restoration by re-

quiring collaboration and the best available science to form the foundation for landscape restoration.

Despite the importance of landscape-scale restoration, neither the National Fire Plan, nor the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, nor any of our other efforts have been very successful in facilitating restoration and hazardous fuels reduction on landscape scales. A lack of sufficient funding is one of the primary reasons. Restoring landscapes takes a significant amount of funding over a significant period of time. That has proven to be beyond the capacity of the local and regional agency budgets.

To address this problem, the Forest Landscape Restoration Act authorizes \$40 million per year for 10 years to be paid into a national pool. Eligible landscape restoration projects from around the country would compete for a portion of that money. Forty million dollars is not nearly enough money to fund landscape-scale treatments in all of the forest landscapes in need of restoration, but it is a realistic amount of funding, and it is enough to make landscape-scale restoration a reality.

Because of funding and other challenges, landscape-scale restoration remains largely theoretical. As a result, this legislation is designed to be both practical and experimental. It does not redirect existing efforts. It instead adds to existing efforts by creating a program that will make planning, funding, and carrying out at least a handful of landscape-scale forest restoration projects possible. If it is successful—and I think it will be—we can expand it in the future.

I would again like to thank Senators DOMENICI and FEINSTEIN and the other cosponsors of the bill. I appreciate the stakeholders who have written to support this bill, including the Nature Conservancy—which has been very supportive of our effort—American Forests, the Forest Guild, Sustainable Northwest, the Watershed Research and Training Center, and Conservation Northwest. I look forward to working with them and the many other stakeholders as we move forward with the bill.

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

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

S. 2593

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Forest Landscape Restoration Act of 2008”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes through a process that—

- (1) encourages ecological, economic, and social sustainability;
- (2) leverages local resources with national and private resources;
- (3) facilitates the reduction of wildfire management costs, including through rees-

tablishing natural fire regimes and reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire; and

(4) demonstrates the degree to which—

- (A) various ecological restoration techniques—

- (i) achieve ecological health objectives; and

- (ii) affect wildfire activity and management costs; and

(B) the use of forest restoration byproducts can offset treatment costs while benefitting rural economies and improving forest health.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **FUND.**—The term “Fund” means the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund established by section 4(f).

(2) **PLAN.**—The term “Plan” means the plan entitled the “10 Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan” and dated December 2006.

(3) **PROGRAM.**—The term “program” means the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program established under section 4(a).

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 4. COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall establish a Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program to select and fund ecological restoration treatments for priority forest landscapes in accordance with applicable law.

(b) **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.**—To be eligible for nomination under subsection (c), a collaborative forest landscape restoration proposal shall—

(1) be based on a landscape restoration strategy that—

(A) is complete or substantially complete;

(B) identifies and prioritizes ecological restoration treatments for a 10-year period across a landscape that is—

(i) at least 50,000 acres;

(ii) comprised primarily of forested National Forest System land, but may also include other Federal, State, tribal, or private land;

(iii) in need of active ecosystem restoration; and

(iv) accessible by existing or proposed wood-processing infrastructure at an appropriate scale to use woody biomass and small-diameter wood removed in ecological restoration treatments;

(C) incorporates—

(i) the best available science and scientific application tools in ecological restoration strategies; and

(ii) the requirements for old-growth maintenance, restoration, and management direction of paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) of subsection (e) and the requirements for large-tree retention of subsection (f) of section 102 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6512); and

(D) does not include the establishment of permanent roads;

(2) be developed and implemented through a collaborative process that—

(A) includes multiple stakeholders representing diverse interests;

(B)(i) is transparent and nonexclusive; or

(ii) meets the requirements for a resource advisory committee under section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 500 note; Public Law 106-393); and

(C) has an established record of successful planning and implementation of ecological restoration projects on National Forest System land;

(3) describe plans to—

(A) use fire for ecological restoration and maintenance, where appropriate;

(B) improve fish and wildlife habitat, including for endangered, threatened, and sensitive species;

(C) maintain or improve water quality;

(D) prevent, remediate, or control invasions of exotic species;

(E) maintain or decommission roads;

(F) use woody biomass and small-diameter trees produced from projects implementing the landscape restoration strategy;

(G) report annually on performance, including through performance measures from the Plan;

(H) develop small business incubators and provide employment and training opportunities to people in rural communities, including contracts for monitoring activities, through—

(i) local private, nonprofit, or cooperative entities;

(ii) Youth Conservation Corps crews or related partnerships, with State, local, and non-profit youth groups;

(iii) small or micro-businesses; or

(iv) other entities that will hire or train a significant percentage of local people to complete such contracts; and

(I) take into account any applicable community wildfire protection plan (as defined in section 101 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511));

(4) analyze the anticipated cost savings resulting from—

(A) reduced wildfire management costs; and

(B) a decrease in the unit costs of implementing ecological restoration treatments over time;

(5) estimate—

(A) the annual Federal funding necessary to implement the proposal; and

(B) the amount of new non-Federal investment for carrying out the proposal that would be leveraged by Federal funding for ecological restoration treatments; and

(6) be subject to any other requirements that the Secretary determines to be necessary for the efficient and effective administration of the program.

(c) NOMINATION PROCESS.—

(1) SUBMISSION.—Collaborative forest landscape restoration proposals shall be submitted to the appropriate Regional Forester for consideration.

(2) NOMINATION.—A Regional Forester may nominate collaborative forest landscape restoration proposals for selection by the Secretary.

(3) DOCUMENTATION.—With respect to each collaborative forest landscape restoration proposal that is nominated under paragraph (2)—

(A) the appropriate Regional Forester shall—

(i) include a proposal to use Federal funds allocated to the region to fund those costs of planning and carrying out ecological restoration treatments on National Forest land consistent with the landscape restoration strategy that would not be covered by amounts transferred to the Secretary from the Fund; and

(ii) provide evidence that amounts proposed to be transferred to the Secretary from the Fund during the first 2 years following selection would be used to carry out ecological restoration treatments consistent with the landscape restoration strategy during the same fiscal year in which the funds are transferred to the Secretary;

(B) if actions under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior are proposed, the nomination shall require—

(i) the concurrence of the appropriate official of the Department of the Interior; and

(ii) a proposal to fund ecological restoration treatments consistent with the land-

scape restoration strategy that would be carried out by the Secretary of the Interior; and

(C) if actions on land not under the jurisdiction of the Secretary or the Secretary of the Interior are proposed, the appropriate Regional Forester shall provide evidence that the landowner intends to participate in, and provide appropriate funding to carry out, the actions.

(d) SELECTION PROCESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After consulting with any scientific and technical advisory panels established under subsection (e), the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall, subject to paragraph (2), select the best collaborative forest landscape restoration proposals that—

(A) have been nominated under subsection (c)(2); and

(B) meet the eligibility criteria established by subsection (b).

(2) CRITERIA.—In selecting collaborative forest landscape restoration proposals under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give special consideration to—

(A) the strength of the ecological case of the proposal for landscape restoration and the proposed restoration strategies;

(B) the strength of the collaborative process;

(C) whether the proposal would reduce the relative costs of carrying out treatments as a result of the use of woody biomass and small-diameter trees;

(D) whether the proposal is likely to achieve reductions in long-term wildfire management costs;

(E) the strength of the landscape restoration proposal and strategy; and

(F) whether an appropriate level of non-Federal investment would be leveraged in carrying out the proposal.

(3) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may select not more than—

(A) 10 collaborative forest landscape restoration proposals to be funded during any given year; and

(B) 2 collaborative forest landscape restoration proposals in any 1 region of the National Forest System to be funded during any given year.

(e) ADVISORY PANELS.—

(1) SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL.—The Secretary shall establish a scientific advisory panel comprised of not more than 12 experts in ecological forest restoration and fire ecology to evaluate, and provide recommendations on, any proposal that has been nominated under subsection (c)(2) and meets the eligibility criteria established by subsection (b) with respect to—

(A) the strength of the ecological case of the proposal for landscape restoration and the proposed restoration strategies; and

(B) whether the proposal is likely to achieve reductions in long-term wildfire management costs.

(2) TECHNICAL ADVISORY PANEL.—The Secretary may establish a technical advisory panel comprised of experts in rural business development and the use of woody biomass and small-diameter trees to evaluate, and provide recommendations on, any proposal that has been nominated under subsection (c)(2) and meets the eligibility criteria established by subsection (b) with respect to whether the proposal is likely to reduce the relative costs of carrying out treatments as a result of the use of woody biomass and small-diameter trees and provide local economic benefit.

(f) COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the “Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Fund”, to be used to pay up to 50 percent of the cost of carrying

out ecological restoration treatments on National Forest System land for each collaborative forest landscape restoration proposal selected to be carried out under subsection (d), consisting of—

(A) such amounts as are appropriated to the Fund under paragraph (5); and

(B) any interest earned on investment of amounts in the Fund under paragraph (3).

(2) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—On request by the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the Fund to the Secretary of Agriculture such amounts as the Secretary of Agriculture determines are necessary to carry out ecological restoration treatments under paragraph (1).

(3) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest such portion of the Fund as is not, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury, after consulting with the Secretary, required to meet current withdrawals.

(B) INTEREST-BEARING OBLIGATIONS.—Investments may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of the United States.

(C) ACQUISITION OF OBLIGATIONS.—For the purpose of investments under subparagraph (A), obligations may be acquired—

(i) on original issue at the issue price; or

(ii) by purchase of outstanding obligations at the market price.

(D) SALE OF OBLIGATIONS.—Any obligation acquired by the Fund may be sold by the Secretary of the Treasury at the market price.

(E) CREDITS TO FUND.—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to and form a part of the Fund.

(4) ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING SYSTEM.—The Secretary shall establish an accounting and reporting system for the Fund.

(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2018, to remain available until expended.

(g) PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING.—

(1) WORK PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which a collaborative forest landscape restoration proposal is selected to be carried out, the Secretary shall create, in collaboration with the interested stakeholders, an implementation work plan and budget to implement the collaborative forest landscape restoration proposal that includes—

(A) a description of the manner in which the proposal would be implemented to achieve ecological and community economic benefit, including capacity building to accomplish restoration;

(B) a business plan that addresses—

(i) the anticipated unit treatment cost reductions over 10 years;

(ii) the anticipated costs for infrastructure needed for the proposal;

(iii) the projected sustainability of the supply of woody biomass and small-diameter trees removed in ecological restoration treatments; and

(iv) the projected local economic benefits of the proposal; and

(C) documentation of the non-Federal investment in the priority landscape, including the sources and uses of the investments.

(2) PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.—Amounts transferred to the Secretary from the Fund shall be used to carry out ecological restoration treatments that are—

(A) consistent with the landscape restoration proposal and strategy; and

(B) identified through the collaborative process described in subsection (b)(2).

(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—Annually, the Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary

of the Interior and interested stakeholders, shall prepare a report on the accomplishments of each selected collaborative forest landscape restoration proposal that includes—

(A) a description of all acres (or other appropriate unit) treated and restored through projects implementing the landscape restoration strategy;

(B) an evaluation of progress, including performance measures and how prior year evaluations have contributed to improved project performance;

(C) a description of community benefits achieved, including any local economic benefits;

(D) the results of the multiparty monitoring, evaluation, and accountability process under paragraph (4); and

(E) a summary of the costs of—

(i) treatments; and

(ii) relevant fire management activities.

(4) MULTIPARTY MONITORING.—The Secretary shall, in collaboration with the Secretary of the Interior and interested stakeholders, use a multiparty monitoring, evaluation, and accountability process to assess the positive or negative ecological, social, and economic effects of each project implementing a selected collaborative forest landscape restoration proposal for not less than 15 years after project implementation commences.

(h) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the first fiscal year in which funding is made available to carry out ecological restoration projects under the program, and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall submit a report on the program, including an assessment of whether, and to what extent, the program is fulfilling the purposes of this Act, to—

(1) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 443—DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2008 AS “GO DIRECT MONTH”

Mrs. DOLE submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 443

Whereas, in fiscal year 2007, nearly 60,000 checks issued by the Department of the Treasury, worth approximately \$56,000,000, were endorsed by forgery;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury receives approximately 1,400,000 inquiries each year regarding problems with paper checks;

Whereas, each month, nearly 12,000,000 social security and other Federal benefit payments are made with checks;

Whereas the United States would generate approximately \$132,000,000 in annual savings if all Federal benefit checks were paid by direct deposit;

Whereas the use of direct deposit is a more secure, reliable, and cost-effective method of payment than paper checks because the use of direct deposit—

(1) helps protect against identity theft and fraud;

(2) provides easier access to funds during emergencies and natural disasters; and

(3) provides the people of the United States with more control over their money;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Banks have launched Go Direct, a national campaign to motivate people who receive Federal benefit payments to use direct deposit to receive those payments;

Whereas Go Direct works with more than 1,100 partners across the Nation, including financial institutions, advocacy groups, and community organizations;

Whereas more than 130 financial institutions representing 25,000 branches nationwide participated in the 2007 “Go Direct Champions” competition to encourage the use of direct deposit among people who receive Federal benefit payments; and

Whereas more than 1,600,000 people in the United States have switched from paper checks to direct deposit to receive Federal benefit payments since Go Direct launched in the fall of 2004: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates February 2008 as “Go Direct Month”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of the Go Direct campaign;

(3) commends Federal, State, and local governments, nonprofit agencies, and the private sector for promoting February as Go Direct Month; and

(4) encourages people in the United States who are eligible to receive social security or other Federal benefit payments to—

(A) participate in events and awareness initiatives held during the month of February with respect to using direct deposit;

(B) become informed about the convenience and safety of direct deposit; and

(C) consider signing up for direct deposit of social security or other Federal benefit payments.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3980. Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. DEMINT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5140, to provide economic stimulus through recovery rebates to individuals, incentives for business investment, and an increase in conforming and FHA loan limits; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3981. Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. DEMINT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5140, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3982. Mr. DORGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5140, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3983. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5140, supra.

SA 3984. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3983 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 5140, supra.

SA 3985. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5140, supra.

SA 3986. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3985 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 5140, supra.

SA 3987. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3986 proposed by Mr. REID to the amendment SA 3985 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 5140, supra.

SA 3988. Mr. REID (for Mr. LIEBERMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 2457, to provide for extensions of leases of certain land by Mashantucket Pequot (Western) Tribe.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3980. Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. DEMINT) submitted an amend-

ment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5140, to provide economic stimulus through recovery rebates to individuals, incentives for business investment, and an increase in conforming and FHA loan limits; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . ESTATE TAX REPEAL MADE PERMANENT.

Section 901 of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 shall not apply to title V of such Act.

SA 3981. Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. DEMINT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5140, to provide economic stimulus through recovery rebates to individuals, incentives for business investment, and an increase in conforming and FHA loan limits; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SMALLER PUBLIC COMPANY OPTION REGARDING INTERNAL CONTROL PROVISIONS.

Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 7262) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) SMALLER PUBLIC COMPANY OPTION.—

“(1) VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE.—A smaller issuer shall not be subject to the requirements of subsection (a), unless the smaller issuer voluntarily elects to comply with such requirements, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Commission. Any smaller issuer that does not elect to comply with subsection (a) shall state such election, together with the reasons therefor, in its annual report to the Commission under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m or 78o(d)).

“(2) DEFINITION OF SMALLER ISSUER.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subsection, and subject to subparagraph (B), the term ‘smaller issuer’ means an issuer for which an annual report is required by section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m or 78o(d)), that—

“(i) has a total market capitalization at the beginning of the relevant reporting period of less than \$700,000,000;

“(ii) has total product and services revenue for that reporting period of less than \$125,000,000; or

“(iii) has, at the beginning of the relevant reporting period, fewer than 1,500 record beneficial holders.

“(B) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS.—The amounts referred to in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall be adjusted annually to account for changes in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, United States city average, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.”.

SA 3982. Mr. DORGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5140, to provide economic stimulus through recovery rebates to individuals, incentives for business investment, and an increase in conforming and FHA loan limits; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page ____, between lines ____ and ____, insert the following:

“(5) MESSAGE ON ADVANCE REFUND CHECK.—The Secretary shall display prominently the