

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Beauveria bassiana HF23; Amendment of Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 8814-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 2, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4942. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Iowa" (FRL No. 9122-4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 2, 2010; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4943. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Payment of Costs Prior to Definition—Definition of Contract Action" (DFARS Case 2009-D035) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 2, 2010; to the Committee on Armed Services.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

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

H.R. 3433. A bill to amend the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to establish requirements regarding payment of the non-Federal share of the costs of wetlands conservation projects in Canada that are funded under that Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 111-158).

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. WYDEN:

S. 3082. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize individuals who are pursuing programs of rehabilitation, education, or training under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to receive work-study allowances for certain outreach services provided through congressional offices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BENNETT:

S. 3083. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the expensing of certain real property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. LEMIEUX, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3084. A bill to increase the competitiveness of United States businesses, particularly small and medium-sized manufacturing firms, in interstate and global commerce, foster job creation in the United States, and assist United States businesses in developing or expanding commercial activities in interstate and global commerce by expanding the ambit of the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program and the Technology Innovation Program to include projects that have potential for commercial exploitation in nondomestic markets, providing for an increase in related resources of the Department of Commerce, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 3085. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to improve the business and industry direct and guaranteed loan program of the Department of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 461

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 461, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 1055

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1055, a bill to grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

S. 1737

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1737, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase the number of children eligible for free school meals, with a phased-in transition period.

S. 1762

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1762, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to expand and intensify programs of the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to translational research and related activities concerning Down syndrome, and for other purposes.

S. 1783

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1783, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to provide for country of origin labeling for dairy products.

S. 1939

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1939, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of certain veterans who served in the vicinity of the Republic of Vietnam, and for other purposes.

S. 2758

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2758, a bill to amend the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 to estab-

lish a national food safety training, education, extension, outreach, and technical assistance program for agricultural producers, and for other purposes.

S. 2878

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2878, a bill to prevent gun trafficking in the United States.

S. 3077

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3077, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State to refuse or revoke visas to aliens if in the security or foreign policy interests of the United States, to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to review visa applications before adjudication, and to provide for the immediate dissemination of visa revocation information.

S. 3081

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3081, a bill to provide for the interrogation and detention of enemy belligerents who commit hostile acts against the United States, to establish certain limitations on the prosecution of such belligerents for such acts, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 433

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 433, a resolution supporting the goals of "International Women's Day".

S. RES. 439

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISC) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 439, a resolution recognizing the exemplarily service, devotion to country, and selfless sacrifice of Special Warfare Operators 2nd Class Matthew McCabe and Jonathan Keefe and Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Julio Huertas in capturing Ahmed Hashim Abed, one of the most-wanted terrorists in Iraq, and pledging to continue to support members of the United States Armed Forces serving in harm's way.

AMENDMENT NO. 3374

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3374 proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3375

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3375 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3383

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3383 proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3403

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3403 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3416

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3416 proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3428

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3428 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 3082. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize individuals who are pursuing programs of rehabilitation, education, or training under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to receive work-study allowances for certain outreach services provided through congressional offices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bill to right a bureaucratic wrong that has prevented capable and qualified veterans from serving their home States as work-study students in Congressional offices.

For years, veterans have served in the office of their representative or senator as a vital part of an office's constituent service efforts. These student veterans gain employment experience while providing valuable expertise to our offices. Student veterans work together with our staffs to assist other veterans from their home State wade through the often confusing and lengthy process of receiving benefits from the Department of Veterans Af-

fairs. Congressional offices benefit by providing better services to their constituents without having to hire a disproportionate number of people to assist with veterans affairs. Veteran work-study students also benefit the VA by shouldering up-front some of the administrative burdens of claims processing.

Congressional offices have served as qualified work sites for VA work-study students for over 25 years. Student veterans have worked in congressional offices during my time in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. In recent months, however, Oregon congressional offices were notified that they would no longer be eligible sites for VA work-study programs.

I am deeply troubled that the proud tradition of student veterans serving fellow veterans in Oregon congressional offices is in jeopardy. At a time when the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have increased the number of veterans seeking our help with VA benefits and services, the instability of the program is particularly unfortunate. Moreover, my concerns are heightened due to the reduction in work-study positions available to Oregon veterans during an economic recession that has sent unemployment rates over 12 percent in some areas.

I share the VA's hope to provide high quality, prompt, and seamless service to veterans and their dependents, through the VA work-study program. That is why I am introducing legislation today to return these talented student veterans to Congressional offices. These student veterans provide an invaluable resource to our staffs. I hope that we are able to pass this legislation quickly to provide valuable employment opportunities for our Nation's veterans.

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. 3082

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

SECTION 1. EXPANSION OF WORK-STUDY ALLOWANCE TO INCLUDE CERTAIN OUTREACH SERVICES CONDUCTED THROUGH CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES.

Section 3485(a)(4) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(G) The following activities carried out at the offices of Members of Congress for such Members:

“(i) The distribution of information to members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their dependents about the benefits and services under laws administered by the Secretary and other appropriate governmental and non-governmental programs.

“(ii) The preparation and processing of papers and other documents, including documents to assist in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary.”.

By Mr. BENNETT:

S. 3083. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the expensing of certain real property; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, we got some numbers this morning. Unemployment seems stuck at 9.7 percent nationally. We lost more jobs. In my home State of Utah, unemployment is at a 23-year high at 6.8 percent. I know there are States represented by Senators here that would love to have 6.8 percent as their unemployment rate, but we in Utah do not like it.

I want to talk about one aspect of the unemployment rate that I think has been ignored in the debate we have had around the country. The President says we are out of the woods, not far out of the woods, to be sure, but that we have turned around, that the recession has started to fade, and we are starting to come back. He looks at macronumbers and makes that statement with respect to GDP and all of the rest of that. He is missing a very important fact I want to highlight here today in the introduction of this bill.

The economy is driven by a variety of forces. But the one thing we do know about economic activity is that jobs are created primarily by small businesses. When I say small, I mean really small. Over 7 million jobs have been lost since the beginning of the recession. We must ask, How many of those have been lost in small businesses? The answer is, over half of that number. Over 3.5 million of the jobs that have been lost have been lost in small businesses.

We hear and look at the reports that are in the newspaper about big companies that have had layoffs and big companies that have stopped hiring. But it is the small businesses in the United States that have been the engine of economic growth and the engine of hiring all the way through.

I have talked before about my own experiences as a small businessman, and I will revisit that here for a moment to put this in context.

I have been involved in the creation of a number of businesses. Most of them have failed. That is the norm for small businesses. People get an idea. People get excited. They get caught up in the idea of having their own business. They start their own business, and they find it is much harder than they thought. They find the challenge is much more difficult than they thought or they simply run into challenges that are beyond their control and they end up failing.

It is all summarized in a comment made by a woman who attended a meeting of Inc. magazine. Inc. magazine every year chooses the “Entrepreneur of the Year” across the country in the various States. I was honored enough to be chosen as the “Entrepreneur of the Year” when I was CEO of a business in Utah, and as a reward for that we went to this convention down in Miami Beach. A panel was being held of small businesspeople.