

Whereas, there is a need for an immediate examination of existing federal programs and policies impacting the dairy industry in order to develop approaches that better help to stabilize farm incomes, and hence benefit farmers as well as local communities and local infrastructure; and

Whereas, there is a renewed recognition by dairy farm and dairy industry leaders from all sections of the United States that the current pricing crisis is not of benefit to farmers or their customers, including cooperatives, processors, retailers, and consumers; and

Whereas, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes the importance of an economically viable dairy industry, and its benefit to local economies as well as the national economy: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana Memorializes the Congress of the United States to work with the leadership of the United States dairy industry, including the leadership of its two major trade organizations, the National Milk Producers Federation and the International Dairy Foods Association, to take steps to bring all industry leaders together immediately to identify measures, including change to federal policies and programs, to minimize price volatility risks now being experienced by dairy farmers across the United States; be it further

Resolved, That Congressional leadership be urged to work cooperatively with the United States Secretary of Agriculture and his staff on these issues inasmuch as federal policies and procedures have an impact on domestic and international dairy prices; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-122. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to support continued investment and progress in implementing the "Action Plan for Reducing Hypoxia in the North Gulf of Mexico" by expanding cooperative activities throughout the Mississippi River Basin; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 40

Whereas, the spread of a large annual hypoxia zone in the Gulf of Mexico poses a significant threat to the health of Louisiana's productive coastal fishery and the communities and parishes who depend on it; and

Whereas, the state of Louisiana has participated in the national effort to reduce the spread of Gulf hypoxia since the formation of the federal-state Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force in 1998; and

Whereas, the Louisiana Legislature has memorialized the Congress and the President of the United States to fulfill their commitment to address this problem through the cooperative framework of the Action Plan for Reducing Hypoxia in the Northern Gulf of Mexico, in House Concurrent Resolution 80 of the 2007 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana and House Concurrent Resolution 148 of the 2009 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana; and

Whereas, the launching of the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative by the United States Department of Agriculture in 2009, marks the first targeted federal funding for implementation activities of the Action Plan since it was signed in 2001; and

Whereas, Louisiana has joined the other states in the Mississippi River Basin who are participating in this initiative to engage

partners and stakeholders in nominating watersheds to receive federal funding under this program; and

Whereas, the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2011, also contains funding dedicated to Action Plan implementation activities under the budget of the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and

Whereas, our neighboring state of Mississippi has accepted the role of co-chair of the Mississippi River/Watershed Nutrient Task Force, continuing their active collaboration with Louisiana and federal and basin partners to address problems affecting each state's coast and the Gulf of Mexico; and

Whereas, these steps represent a significant acceleration of progress, while all parties involved recognize that much more remains to be done to reverse the spread of Gulf hypoxia, which requires Congressional participation and support: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to support continued investment and progress in implementing the Action Plan for Reducing Hypoxia in the North Gulf of Mexico by expanding cooperative activities throughout the Mississippi River Basin; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the Louisiana delegation to the Congress of the United States, and the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of May 28, 2010, the following reports of committees were submitted on June 4, 2010:

By Mr. LEVIN, from the Committee on Armed Services, without amendment:

S. 3454. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 111-201).

S. 3455. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

S. 3456. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military construction, and for other purposes.

S. 3457. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS DURING ADJOURNMENT

On June 4, 2010, under the authority of the order of the Senate of May 28, 2010, the following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 3454. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activi-

ties of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Armed Services; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 3455. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Armed Services; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 3456. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military construction, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Armed Services; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. LEVIN:

S. 3457. An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Armed Services; placed on the calendar.

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 Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3458. A bill to improve the program under section 8(a) of the Small Business Act and to establish a surety bond pilot program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 3459. A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to authorize additional funding for on-the-job training; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KAUFMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. KERRY):

S. 3460. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide funds to States for rebates, loans, and other incentives to eligible individuals or entities for the purchase and installation of solar energy systems for properties located in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 3461. A bill to create a fair and efficient system to resolve claims of victims for economic injury caused by the Deepwater Horizon incident, and to direct the Secretary of the Interior to renegotiate the terms of the lease known as "Mississippi Canyon 252" with respect to claims relating to the Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill that exceed existing applicable economic liability limitations; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 21

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 21, a bill to reduce unintended pregnancy, reduce abortions, and improve access to women's health care.

S. 46

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 46, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare outpatient rehabilitation therapy caps.

S. 987

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 987, a bill to protect girls in developing countries through the prevention of child marriage, and for other purposes.

S. 1353

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1353, a bill to amend title 1 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1986 to include nonprofit and volunteer ground and air ambulance crew members and first responders for certain benefits.

S. 1743

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1743, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the rehabilitation credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1788

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1788, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard to reduce injuries to patients, direct-care registered nurses, and all other health care workers by establishing a safe patient handling and injury prevention standard, and for other purposes.

S. 2778

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2778, a bill to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to reauthorize that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2920

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2920, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code, to condition the receipt of certain highway funding by States on the enactment and enforcement by States of certain laws to prevent repeat intoxicated driving.

S. 2947

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2947, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to classify automatic fire sprinkler systems as 5-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 3039

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added

as a cosponsor of S. 3039, a bill to prevent drunk driving injuries and fatalities, and for other purposes.

S. 3058

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3058, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the special diabetes programs for Type I diabetes and Indians under that Act.

S. 3087

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3087, a bill to support revitalization and reform of the Organization of American States, and for other purposes.

S. 3102

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3102, a bill to amend the miscellaneous rural development provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make loans to certain entities that will use the funds to make loans to consumers to implement energy efficiency measures involving structural improvements and investments in cost-effective, commercial off-the-shelf technologies to reduce home energy use.

S. 3175

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3175, a bill to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to require the Bureau of Land Management to provide a claimant of a small miner waiver from claim maintenance fees with a period of 60 days after written receipt of 1 or more defects is provided to the claimant by registered mail to cure the 1 or more defects or pay the claim maintenance fee, and for other purposes.

S. 3197

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3197, a bill to require a plan for the safe, orderly, and expeditious redeployment of United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan.

S. 3201

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3201, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend TRICARE coverage to certain dependents under the age of 26.

S. 3235

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3235, a bill to amend the Act titled "An Act to authorize the leasing of restricted Indian lands for public, religious, educational, recreational, resi-

dential, business, and other purposes requiring the grant of long-term leases", approved August 9, 1955, to provide for Indian tribes to enter into certain leases without prior express approval from the Secretary of the Interior.

S. 3295

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3295, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit foreign influence in Federal elections, to prohibit government contractors from making expenditures with respect to such elections, and to establish additional disclosure requirements with respect to spending in such elections, and for other purposes.

S. 3305

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3305, a bill to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to require oil polluters to pay the full cost of oil spills, and for other purposes.

S. 3306

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3306, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require polluters to pay the full cost of oil spills, and for other purposes.

S. 3324

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3324, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the qualifying advanced energy project credit.

S. 3334

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3334, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt survivor benefit annuity plan payments from the individual alternative minimum tax.

S. 3339

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3339, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain small producers.

S. 3341

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3341, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to extend eligibility for coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program with respect to certain adult dependents of Federal employees and annuitants, in conformance with amendments made by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 3371

At the request of Mrs. McCASKILL, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3371, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve access to mental health care counselors under the TRICARE program, and for other purposes.

S. 3393

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3393, a bill to provide for extension of COBRA continuation coverage until coverage is available otherwise under either an employment-based health plan or through an American Health Benefit Exchange under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 3401

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. LEMIEUX) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3401, a bill to provide for the use of unobligated discretionary stimulus dollars to address AIDS Drug Assistance Program waiting lists and other cost containment measures impacting State ADAP programs.

S. 3434

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3434, a bill to provide for the establishment of a Home Star Retrofit Rebate Program, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 29

At the request of Mr. McCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 29, a joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

S. CON. RES. 63

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 63, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Taiwan should be accorded observer status in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3458. A bill to improve the program under section 8(a) of the Small Business Act and to establish a surety bond pilot program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, along with my distinguished colleague Senator Benjamin Cardin of Maryland, I rise today to introduce the Section 8(a) Improvements Act of 2010. As the Chair of the Committee on Small Business

and Entrepreneurship, I have held a number of hearings and roundtables on the issues affecting small businesses that contract with the Federal Government. The Committee has repeatedly heard from small businesses throughout the country that more needs to be done to level the playing field and help our small businesses win Federal contracts. The legislation that I am introducing today seeks to improve access to Federal contracts for small businesses, particularly for socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses. It also represents the third in a series of steps that the Committee is taking to address the disparities and inequalities that currently exist in the Federal procurement process.

As I have explained in previous statements before this chamber, as the largest purchaser in the world, the Federal Government is uniquely positioned to offer new and reliable business opportunities for our small firms. Government contracts are one of the easiest and most inexpensive ways the government can help to immediately increase sales for America's entrepreneurs, leading to the creation of new jobs and helping to move our economy forward. When large businesses get government contracts, they are able to absorb that new work into their existing workforce. When small businesses get government work they must "staff up" to meet the increased demand. By increasing contracts to small businesses by just 1 percent, we can create more than 100,000 new jobs. Today, we need those jobs more than ever.

But the reality is that small businesses need all the help they can get when it comes to accessing Federal contracts. Small businesses face significant challenges in competing for these opportunities, including a maze of complicated regulations, contract bundling issues, size standards with loopholes for big businesses, and a lack of protections for sub-contractors. Despite the fact that Federal agencies have a statutory goal to spend 23 percent of their contract dollars on contracts to small firms, in recent years the government has often fallen short.

For example, according to the Federal Procurement Data System, in fiscal year 2007 the Federal Government missed its 23 percent contracting goal by .992 percent. That .992 percent doesn't sound like much, but in reality it represents more than \$3.74 billion and 93,500 jobs lost for small businesses. In fiscal year 2008, the Federal Procurement Data System reported that the government missed its goal by 1.51 percent, meaning more than \$6.51 billion and 162,700 jobs lost for our small businesses. At a time when more than 15 million Americans are still out of work, merely meeting that 23 percent goal could mean food on the table for a family struggling to make ends meet.

Clearly we need to do better when it comes to helping our small businesses access Federal contracting opportuni-

ties. Even under the best of circumstances our small businesses face significant challenges when seeking Federal contracting opportunities. But these challenges are further compounded for small businesses that face additional obstacles, particularly those that are socially and economically disadvantaged.

The Section 8(a) Improvements Act of 2010 attempts to help socially and economically disadvantaged firms in three ways. First, it makes long overdue and much needed adjustments to the average annual income and net worth thresholds currently in place. Since the establishment of the 8(a) program over 30 years ago, these thresholds have not been significantly updated to account for inflation, placing unrealistic limits on the number of small businesses that are eligible to participate in the program.

Additionally, this legislation requires the SBA to establish maximum net worth thresholds for socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses working in the manufacturing, construction, professional services, and general services industries. Small businesses working in these industries simply face different business conditions as well as higher business costs, which prevent them from participating in the 8(a) program. Making this simple fix will open the program up to a wide array of qualified small businesses.

Secondly, this legislation builds upon the previously mentioned adjustments to the net worth and income thresholds, by extending the amount of time under which a business can participate in the program. For all of the success that many small businesses experience while participating in the program, upon graduation as many as 70 percent see their businesses fail within several years. By establishing a transition period, businesses that have graduated from the program can continue receiving developmental assistance for up to 3 years after graduation, providing them with much needed stability as they seek to transition their business operations.

The third way this legislation attempts to improve contracting opportunities for small businesses is through the creation of a Surety Bond Pilot Program. Under the program, the SBA can guarantee 90 percent of surety bonds, protecting small businesses against any loss resulting from a breach of the terms on a bond. To supplement the guarantee and help put these small businesses in a stronger position to succeed upon graduation from the 8(a) program, the legislation also requires the SBA to provide educational training and technical assistance on a wide range of topics. Finally, the legislation establishes a revolving fund to support the program, and also creates an advisory board to oversee and evaluate the effectiveness and performance of the program.

It is well past time to provide greater opportunities for the thousands of