

States from participating in the European Union's emissions trading scheme, and for other purposes.

S. 1965

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1965, a bill to jump-start economic recovery through the formation and growth of new businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 2066

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2066, a bill to recognize the heritage of recreational fishing, hunting, and shooting on Federal public land and ensure continued opportunities for those activities.

S. 2104

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2104, a bill to amend the Water Resources Research Act of 1984 to reauthorize grants for and require applied water supply research regarding the water resources research and technology institutes established under that Act.

S. 2148

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2148, a bill to amend the Toxic Substance Control Act relating to lead-based paint renovation and remodeling activities.

S. RES. 380

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 380, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the importance of preventing the Government of Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons capability.

AMENDMENT NO. 1540

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1540 intended to be proposed to S. 1813, a bill to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1652

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1652 intended to be proposed to S. 1813, a bill to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1774

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1774 intended to be proposed to S. 1813, a bill to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

posed to S. 1813, a bill to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1784

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1784 intended to be proposed to S. 1813, a bill to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KOHL:

S. 2158. A bill to establish the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President. I wanted to speak today regarding a bill I am introducing to establish the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway National Heritage Area. The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway would cut diagonally across Wisconsin through parts of 15 counties following the Fox River from Green Bay to Portage and the Wisconsin River from Portage to the Mississippi River. This parkway marks the route taken in 1673 by explorers Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet through Wisconsin.

The Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway concept was created in 1991 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Wisconsin Department of Commerce with the purpose of highlighting and enhancing the unique heritage of the State of Wisconsin. The Fox and Wisconsin rivers that serve as the pathway of Wisconsin's first explorers will increase heritage and recreational tourism to sites within the 280 mile Parkway and create awareness of this region's contributions to United States history.

A National Heritage Area designation would revitalize the Parkway as an economic, environmental and recreational resource and ensure it for future generations. This project has the strong support of local towns, cities, businesses and non-profits that are located within this proposed parkway. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress on this National Heritage Area designation.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2159. A bill to extend the authorization of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program through fiscal year 2017; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, I am pleased to join with Senator GRASSLEY to introduce the Drug Free Communities Reauthorization Act of 2012, a bill to reauthorize the successful Drug Free Communities Program. It is crucial that communities around the

country have the support and resources needed to respond to serious drug problems in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. Drug Free Community, DFC, coalitions have been proven to significantly lower substance abuse rates in our communities nationwide.

The DFC program encourages local citizens to become directly involved in solving their community's drug issues through grassroots organizing and data-driven approaches. Since the program's inception, DFC grants, which must be matched dollar for dollar, have helped to fund nearly 2,000 coalitions and have mobilized nearly 9,000 community volunteers. Today's legislation will reauthorize the DFC Program for an additional 5 years, at a reduced rate to reflect current fiscal realities. The community coalition model has proven extremely effective and has achieved impressive outcomes. It is critical that today's bill become law.

The DFC Program strategically invests Federal anti-drug resources at the community level with those who have the most power to reduce the demand for drugs—parents, teachers, business leaders, local media, religious leaders, law enforcement, youth, and others in the community. Grantees execute collaborative strategies to address their communities' unique substance use and abuse issues. This is the optimal way to ensure that the entire community benefits from prevention. I have consistently supported funding for these coalitions, and was pleased that last year, eight Vermont coalitions were awarded Drug Free Community grants totaling \$946,852.

In Vermont, we have felt the presence of drug abuse and drug-related crime in our communities, and prescription drug abuse is on the rise. The myth persists that drug abuse and drug-related crime are only big-city problems, but rural America is also coping with these issues. I have brought the Judiciary Committee to Vermont several times to examine these problems and gain perspectives to help shape solutions. One thing is clear. Law enforcement, while crucial, cannot solve the problem on its own. Reducing substance abuse requires a comprehensive approach with equal attention to law enforcement, prevention and education, and treatment, all with active community buy-in.

We see significant results in the fight against youth drug abuse when we have people working together at the local, State, and Federal levels, and in the law enforcement, prevention, and treatment fields. We have seen success driven by DFC coalitions in Vermont and throughout the country, but there is more work to be done. Drug abuse and drug-related crime is a persistent problem in major metropolitan areas and rural communities alike. I hope all Senators will support this bipartisan bill so that communities nationwide can sustain effective community coalitions to reduce youth drug use.

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. 2159

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

**SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF THE DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES SUPPORT PROGRAM THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2017.**

Section 1024(a) of the National Narcotics Leadership Act of 1988 (21 U.S.C. 1524(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (9) and all that follows and inserting the following:

- “(9) \$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;
- “(10) \$99,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;
- “(11) \$109,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;
- “(12) \$114,000,000 for fiscal year 2009;
- “(13) \$119,000,000 for fiscal year 2010;
- “(14) \$124,000,000 for fiscal year 2011;
- “(15) \$129,000,000 for fiscal year 2012;
- “(16) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2013;
- “(17) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2014;
- “(18) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2015;
- “(19) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2016; and
- “(20) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2017.”.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, throughout my years in Congress, I have worked to keep drugs out of our communities. We have all seen the destructive impact drugs have on our communities, and our families. For years, we have heard tragic stories of the lives impacted by drug abuse. These problems plague our society and we must remain united in this struggle to end abuse and addiction.

In 1997 I, along with then-Senator BIDEN, sponsored legislation to create the Drug Free Communities, DFC, program. I believed then—as I still do today—that one of the most effective ways to prevent drug abuse is by supporting community antidrug coalitions to identify, prevent and eradicate the sources of abuse at the grass roots. Since the enactment of the Drug Free Communities Act, thousands of community antidrug coalitions have received Federal support to further their efforts to halt drug abuse in their communities.

Coalitions, across the country and in my home State of Iowa, are confronted with unique challenges, but they are leading their communities in finding ways to overcome them. For example, the Van Buren Safe Coalition in Keosauqua, IA implemented comprehensive community wide strategies to address the growing marijuana problem in their community. They conducted town hall meetings to raise awareness about the dangers of drug use; facilitated various community and youth education opportunities; and partnered with local schools to ensure drug policies and codes of conduct were in place. As a result, the Van Buren County SAFE Coalition reduced marijuana use among 11th graders by one-third in a 5-year time span according to the Iowa Youth Survey.

The Kossuth Connections coalition, which is headquartered in Algona, IA, is also taking action to fight underage drinking and smoking within its com-

munities. According to the Iowa Youth Survey, current underage drinking and smoking, although still below the statewide average, has increased slightly between 2008 and 2010 in this county. As a result, the Kossuth Connections coalition has partnered with local businesses that sell alcohol and tobacco to ensure compliance with laws requiring age restrictions on selling alcohol and tobacco products. Youth from the county have surveyed area stores, inspected advertisements and product placements, and helped to determine whether or not the store displays a “We ID” sticker at the counter. These youth are committed to ensuring local stores are in compliance with the law and are actively working to reduce underage drinking and smoking.

These coalitions are a small sampling, but they represent the incredible efforts that many are putting into controlling and reducing drug abuse in our communities. Now is not the time to abandon community drug prevention efforts.

Unfortunately, recent trends indicate youth drug use nationally is on the rise and new synthetic drugs like K2/Spice and bath salts are gaining in popularity. In fact, the latest Monitoring the Future Survey indicates that one in nine high school seniors used synthetic drugs like K2/Spice in the past year. This is the first year this survey tested students on synthetic drug use. The high number of users in such a short time span illustrates how rapidly drug use can spread among certain populations and communities. It is discouraging to see these surveys and to read about more tragedies on a daily basis. These negative trends will continue if they are not aggressively addressed.

It is vital that communities are made aware of abuse trends and the new drugs coming on the horizon. The actions community antidrug coalitions can take to stem the growing tide of rising drug abuse, like synthetic drug abuse, can and have made a real difference. By holding town hall meetings, launching school programs, and confronting local businesses that market or sell inappropriate products community coalitions are making a real positive difference.

Whether it is a synthetic drug outbreak, a meth epidemic in a Midwestern town, or an increase in underage drinking, community antidrug coalitions will lead the way to unite their community against drug abuse. It is vital in these tough times that these coalitions continue to receive support from their communities and from the Federal Government. That is why I am pleased to join my colleague, Senator LEAHY, in introducing a bill to reauthorize The Drug Free Communities Support Program for an additional 5 years.

This reauthorizing legislation recognizes the good work local antidrug coalitions have done over the years, but it also recognizes the fact that resources

at the Federal level are tight and that authorizations need to more closely resemble appropriations. Further, this program is part of an ongoing review conducted by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) that I, along with Senator FEINSTEIN, requested to study the effectiveness of the program. This study will take some time to develop and should not hinder our efforts to reauthorize the program, but should also be taken into consideration once the results are available.

We must remain vigilant and not relent in our efforts to eradicate drug abuse. Drug abuse flourishes when the problem is ignored. If we are going to make a better future for our children and communities, we must face this menace together.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 2162. A bill to provide for the redevelopment of abandoned and foreclosed-upon properties and for the stabilization of affected neighborhoods, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I introduce the Project Rebuild Act today, and I thank Senators DURBIN, SCHUMER, LEAHY, AKAKA, SHERROD BROWN, WHITEHOUSE, MERKLEY, BEGICH, FRANKEN, and BLUMENTHAL for joining me as original cosponsors of this bill.

Rhode Island, like America, is facing a foreclosure crisis. The bill we are introducing offers an opportunity to address this crisis—tackling foreclosures and affordable rental housing at the same time.

Building upon the successful, proven, and bipartisan Neighborhood Stabilization Plan, NSP, which has helped put Americans back to work stabilizing neighborhoods, the Project Rebuild Act could provide \$43 million for Rhode Island to help create jobs and overhaul distressed neighborhoods and commercial properties.

Nationwide, about \$10 billion would be directed to States and local governments through a formula modeled after NSP, and \$5 billion would be distributed through new competitive grants.

We are facing a challenging budget environment, but this is the right time to make smart investments in strengthening our communities, putting more construction workers back to work, and bolstering the economy. This initiative will provide a flexible source of funding to help local communities leverage federal dollars to effectively address vacant and blighted properties.

In communities across Rhode Island and the country, we have seen how the foreclosure crisis has affected not just those who have lost their homes, but also how it has impacted entire neighborhoods.

I helped ensure that Rhode Island would receive additional NSP funding to assist communities hit hardest by the foreclosure crisis. Based on my visits to many NSP sites in Rhode Island, the State's NSP allotment of \$26 million is making a difference in neighborhoods all over the State. This crucial investment in Rhode Island has not only begun to help reverse the fallout from foreclosures, but has also provided families with affordable rental housing.

But more needs to be done. According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, despite three rounds of NSP funding, "there is unaddressed high need in more than 76 percent of high need census tracts across the country." According to the Federal Reserve's recent housing white paper, the number of new homes that will have completed the foreclosure process could be as high as 1 million properties per year in 2012 and 2013.

We need to act to gain traction in our housing market so that we can firmly anchor a sustainable economic recovery that actually reaches and touches all Americans.

The Project Rebuild Act takes us in the right direction towards gaining this needed traction by making important enhancements to NSP, such as broadening eligible uses to include commercial vacancies.

It would offer new grants for fixing up vacant commercial properties, complementing the abilities of private developers.

It would also increase support for "land banking." Land banks work with communities to buy, hold, and redevelop distressed properties as part of a long-term redevelopment strategy. Our bill would help more communities utilize successful land bank models and provide additional resources for Rhode Island Housing's Land Bank.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, estimates Project Rebuild could create over 190,000 jobs and renovate 150,000 properties nationwide.

Just as NSP was supported on a bipartisan basis, I hope we can build bipartisan support for this effort to help revitalize neighborhoods, create jobs, and accelerate economic growth.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this bill and other efforts to address foreclosures and bolster our nation's recovery.

By Mr. CONRAD:

S. 2163. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve Medicare benefits for individuals with kidney disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am introducing the Kidney Disease Equitable Access, Prevention, and Research Act. This legislation recognizes the importance of patient choice, access to care, and educational efforts to assist the more than 400,000 Americans with kidney failure to manage their disease and understand the treatment options.

First, the legislation seeks to maintain patient choice to retain their private insurance options, even after they qualify for Medicare by virtue of their disease state. Under current law, an individual diagnosed with kidney failure, or End Stage Renal Disease, ESRD, has the choice to maintain his/her current group health plan or transition immediately to Medicare. The legislation introduced today would direct the Secretary to clarify that this long-standing requirement also applies to group health plans established through Health Benefit Exchanges, as well as more traditional plans.

Second, the legislation seeks to improve access to preventive and educational services by expanding access to coverage for kidney disease education services.

Finally, the legislation seeks to address barriers to receiving this life-sustaining treatment, including transportation issues and factors that lead to disparities among minority populations. It also calls on the Secretary to report on gaps in quality and care management metrics to support ongoing efforts to continue quality improvement in the Medicare ESRD program.

I call on my colleagues to reaffirm the Congressional commitment to Americans with ESRD by ensuring equitable access to care for individuals with kidney disease, supporting research to improve access to high quality kidney care, and improving access to preventive care for individuals with ESRD. The Kidney Disease Equitable Access, Prevention, and Research Act is a comprehensive bill that improves upon the Medicare ESRD program. I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this important legislation.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 389—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2012 AS "NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK"

Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID of Nevada, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 389

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer such as mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases can take 10 to 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the expected survival time for those diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas, generally, little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for such diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients in-

creased treatment options and might improve their prognoses;

Whereas the United States has substantially reduced its consumption of asbestos, yet continues to consume almost 1,100 metric tons of the fibrous mineral for use in certain products throughout the United States;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

Whereas exposure to asbestos continues, but safety and prevention of asbestos exposure already has significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of such diseases;

Whereas asbestos has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

Whereas a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the establishment of a "National Asbestos Awareness Week" will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2012 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week";

(2) urges the Surgeon General to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1800. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1761 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1813, to reauthorize Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1801. Mr. HARKIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1761 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1802. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1761 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1803. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1761 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1804. Mr. HARKIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1805. Mr. ROBERTS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1741 submitted by Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. CONRAD) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 1813, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1806. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to