collection and improve the coordination of data which it has received from its various units and from other sources such as State agencies. The Act would also provide the public with greater computer access to EPA data bases.

No additional data would be required from the private sector. In fact, the current reporting burden on industry could be reduced once streamlined data collection was in place. The bill also complements new EPA initiatives aimed at consolidating permit requirements and eliminating paperwork.

This bill is an example of how we can use public power to help communities protect themselves through access to information rather than through additional programs or more bureaucracy.

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

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

S. 1935

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 ''Public Trust and Environmental Accountability Act''.

SEC. 2. definitions.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Agency.

(2) AGENCY.—The term ''Agency'' means the Environmental Protection Agency.

SEC. 3. IMPROVED INFORMATION COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION.

(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to enhance public access and encourage use of information collected by the Agency;

(2) to improve the management of information resources; and

(3) to assist Agency enforcement, pollution prevention, and multimedia permitting and reporting initiatives.

(b) PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall develop a plan to implement policies, programs, and methods for integrating and making publicly available information pertaining to the environment and public health policy concerns within the jurisdiction of the Agency.

(c) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—The policies, programs, and methods under subsection (b) shall provide for—

(1) creation of standard information formats for collection, integration, retrieval, storage, retention, and dissemination of information;

(2) improved coordination of information collection and information management to integrate separate information resources, including the development and implementation of common company, facility, industrial sector, geographic, and chemical identifiers and such other information as the Administrator determines to be appropriate;

(3) a system for indexing, locating, and obtaining information maintained by the Agency concerning parent companies, facilities, chemicals, and the regulatory status of entities subject to oversight by the Agency;

(4) ready accessibility of, and dissemination of, publicly available information generated by or submitted to the Agency, including public accessibility by computer telecommunication and other means; and

(5) universal availability of electronic reporting for all environmental reporting requirements established under laws administered by the Agency directly or through delegations to States, territories, and Indian tribes.

(d) COORDINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall coordinate the Agency's information collection and dissemination activities with the activities of other Federal, State, and local agencies to reduce unnecessary burdens and promote greater integration of information.

(2) OTHER INFORMATION.—When necessary to support the mission of the Agency, the Administrator may provide for the integration and dissemination of publicly available information not collected by the Agency.

(e) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall affect the duty of the Agency to maintain the confidentiality of trade secrets, confidential business information, or information that is subject to a rule of court or court order requiring maintenance of confidentiality.

(f) PRICING.—The Administrator may set charges for the provision of information under this section in accordance with the pricing policies of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Paperwork Reduction Act'').

(g) DISSEMINATION POLICIES.—Dissemination policies of the Agency shall include fee reductions, fee waivers, and other support services to encourage public use of information maintained by the Agency.

(h) REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall produce and make available reports that summarize the information that has been made available under this section.

SEC. 4. SOURCE REDUCTION AWARD PROGRAM.

The Administrator shall establish an annual award program to recognize companies that operate outstanding or innovative source reduction programs.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1892

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] and the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 1892, a bill to reward States for collecting medicaid funds expended on tobacco-related illnesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1898

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Illinois [Mr. SIMON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1898, a bill to protect the genetic privacy of individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1917

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM], and the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. FRIST] were added as cosponsors of S. 1917, a bill to authorize the State of Michigan to implement the demonstration project known as ''To Strengthen Michigan Families.''

S. 1928

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1928, A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate tax incentives for exporting jobs outside of the United States, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 277—RELATIVE TO THE BEEF AND CATTLE MARKETS

Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. BURNS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. BOND, and Mr. KEMPTHORNE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. RES. 277

Whereas historically high cattle supplies, low cattle prices, and high feed costs have brought hardship to United States cattle producers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF ANTITRUST RELATED ISSUES.

It is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Attorney General should—

(1) increase monitoring of mergers and acquisitions in the fed and nonfed beef packing sectors for potential antitrust violations; and

(2) investigate possible barriers to entry or expansion in the beef packing sector.

SEC. 2. COLLECTION AND REPORTING FUNCTIONS.

It is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Agriculture should—

(1) to the extent practicable on a regional basis, improve the collection, timeliness, and reporting of—

(A) contract, formula, and live cash cattle;

(B) captive supply cattle, including a definitional change from every 14 to every 7 days;

(C) boxed beef prices;

(D) price differentials within Department of Agriculture quality grades;

(E) all beef and live cattle exports and imports; and

(F) weekly fed cattle value matrix; and

(2) cooperate with the industry to improve collection and reporting of—

(A) retail scanner data to develop a retail price series that reflects both volume and price of all beef sold at retail; and

(B) price and quantity data for United States beef sold for consumption in the away-from-home market.

SEC. 3. SELF-REGULATION WITHIN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) in the case of cattle that are not sold on a live cash basis, a ''grid'' pricing structure should be utilized to determine prices and spreads through competitive bidding not more than 7 days prior to shipment; and

(2) agricultural lenders should consider the total asset portfolio, instead of merely the cash flow, of an entity participating in the cattle and beef markets when evaluating loan performance.

SEC. 4. INTERNATIONAL BARRIERS TO TRADE.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture should continue to identify and seek to eliminate unfair trade barriers and subsidies affecting United States beef markets;

(2) the United States and Canadian Governments should expeditiously negotiate the elimination of animal health barriers that are not based on sound science; and

(3) the import ban on beef from cattle treated with approved growth hormones imposed by the European Union should be terminated.

SEC. 5. EMERGENCY LOAN GUARANTEES.

It is the sense of the Senate that funding for emergency loan guarantees, which assist

agricultural producers who have suffered economic loss due to a natural disaster or other economic conditions, should be funded.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise to submit a resolution of critical importance to our Nation's cattle producers. The beef industry assistance resolution is designed to address the short-term problems that plague the cattle industry because of the prolonged down cycle of the beef market.

A number of my colleagues share my concerns, and I am pleased to announce that original cosponsors of this resolution are Senator MAX BAUCUS, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, Senator LARRY PRESSLER, Senator PETE DOMENICI, Senator CONRAD BURNS, Senator DIRK KEMPTHORNE, and Senator CRAIG THOMAS.

As a former rancher, I have a first-hand understanding of the challenges that face the cattle industry. The prolonged down cycle is especially troubling because it affects the livelihoods of thousands of ranching families in Idaho and across the country.

These beef producers are the largest sector of Idaho and American agriculture. Over 1 million families raise over 100 million head of beef cattle every year. This contributes over $36 billion to local economies. Even with the extended cycle of low prices, direct cash receipts from the Idaho cattle industry were almost $620 million in 1995. These totals only represent direct sales; they do not capture the multiplier effect that cattle ranches have in their local economies from expenditures on labor, feed, fuel, property taxes, and other inputs.

Over the years, cattle operations have provided a decent living and good way of life in exchange for long days, hard work, and dedication. While the investment continues to be high, the returns have been low in recent years.

The problems facing the cattle industry in recent years are complex. The nature of the market dictates that stable consumption combined with increased productivity and growing herd size yield lower prices to producers. This, combined with high feed prices and limited export opportunities, has caused a near crisis.

Many Idahoans have contacted me on this issue. Some suggest the Federal Government intervene in the market to help producers. However, many others have expressed fear that Federal intervention, if experience is any indication, will only complicate matters and may also create a number of unintended results. I tend to agree with the latter. Time and again, I have seen lawmakers and bureaucrats in Washington, DC, albeit well-intentioned, take a difficult situation and make it worse. This does not mean that I believe Government has no role to play. I have supported and will continue to support measures of proven value. However, I will continue to follow this situation closely with the hope that free market forces will, in the long run, aid in making cattle producers more efficient, productive, and profitable.

The cattle industry is part of a complex, long-term cycle; however, there are producers who might not survive the short term consequences. The beef industry assistance resolution addresses a number of these short-term issues. These are issues that were raised at a hearing of the Agriculture Committee that I chaired a few weeks ago.

The resolution has five sections—antitrust monitoring, market reporting, private sector self-regulation, recognition of barriers to international trade, and emergency loan guarantees.

Section 1 encourages the Secretary of Agriculture and Department of Justice to increase the monitoring of mergers and acquisitions in the beef industry. Investigation of possible barriers in the beef packing sector for new firms and with other commodities is encouraged.

Section 2 directs the Secretary of Agriculture to expedite the reporting of existing beef categories and add additional categories. These categories include contract, formula and live cash cattle prices and boxed beef prices. The Secretary is also encouraged to increase the frequency of captive supply cattle from every 14 to 7 days. I am especially interested in the improved reporting of all beef and live cattle exports and imports. The second section also directs the Secretary to capture data on a previously unrecorded segment of the market—away from home consumption. While this market consumes approximately half of the Nation's beef production, very little is known about it.

Section 3 encourages two very important measures within the private sector. First, meat packing companies are encouraged to fully utilize a grid pricing structure which will provide producers with a more complete picture for the particular type of the cattle they produce. Second, agricultural lenders are encouraged to consider the total asset portfolio, not just cash-flow, when evaluating this year's beef loans. Even the best operators will have great difficulty cash-flowing a cattle outfit because of the prolonged period of low prices.

Section 4 recognizes a number of barriers to international trade that adversely affect American beef producers. The section is meant to elevate the importance of all trade issues and specifically references the elimination of the European Union hormone ban and animal health barriers between the United States and Canada.

Section 5 recommends that emergency loan guarantees be made available to agricultural lenders with cattle industry loans. I am disappointed that the President zeroed out funding for this program in his fiscal year 1997 proposal. I have heard from a number of lenders that a high number of loans are questionable for this fall.

The beef industry assistance resolution is a measure designed to provide immediate, short-term solutions to some of the serious problems facing the cattle industry. I know that a number of my colleagues have legislation pending in regard to the cattle market. I would comment that I see this resolution as a starting point, not an ending point for cattle industry issues.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE SMALL BUSINESS JOB PROTECTION ACT OF 1996

ROTH (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 4436

Mr. ROTH (for himself, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. DASCHLE) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 3448) to provide tax relief for small businesses, to protect jobs, to create opportunities, to increase the take-home pay of workers, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 243, strike lines 9 through 11, and insert:

(b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1986.

(2) TRANSITIONAL RULE.—If—

(A) for purposes of applying part III of subchapter F of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to any taxable year beginning before January 1, 1987, an agricultural or horticultural organization did not treat any portion of membership dues received by it as income derived in an unrelated trade or business, and

(B) such organization had a reasonable basis for not treating such dues as income derived in an unrelated trade or business,

then, for purposes of applying such part III to any such taxable year, in no event shall any portion of such dues be treated as derived in an unrelated trade or business.

(3) REASONABLE BASIS.—For purposes of paragraph (2), an organization shall be treated as having a reasonable basis for not treating membership dues as income derived in an unrelated trade or business if the taxpayer's treatment of such dues was in reasonable reliance on any of the following:

(A) Judicial precedent, published rulings, technical advice with respect to the organization, or a letter ruling to the organization.

(B) A past Internal Revenue Service audit of the organization in which there was no assessment attributable to the reclassification of membership dues for purposes of the tax on unrelated business income.

(C) Long-standing recognized practice of agricultural or horticultural organizations.

On page 246, strike lines 1 through 3, and insert:

(b) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to remuneration paid—

(A) after December 31, 1994, and

(B) after December 31, 1984, and before January 1, 1995, unless the payor treated such remuneration (when paid) as being subject to tax under chapter 21 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(2) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The amendment made by subsection (a)(1)(C) shall apply to remuneration paid after December 31, 1996.

On page 256, line 2, strike the quotation marks.

On page 256, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

''(5) PRESERVATION OF PRIOR PERIOD SAFE HARBOR.—If—