S. 2385

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2385, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand eligibility for Combat-Related Special Compensation paid by the uniformed services in order to permit certain additional retired members who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for that disability and Combat-Related Special Compensation by reason of that disability.

S. 2437

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2437, a bill to increase penalties for trafficking with respect to peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor.

S. CON. RES. 20

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 20, a concurrent resolution expressing the need for enhanced public awareness of traumatic brain injury and support for the designation of a National Brain Injury Awareness Month.

S. RES. 371

At the request of Mr. FRIST, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 371, a resolution designating July 22, 2006, as ''National Day of the American Cowboy''.

AMENDMENT NO. 2944

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2944 proposed to S. 2349, an original bill to provide greater transparency in the legislative process.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2944 proposed to S. 2349, supra.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2461. A bill to prohibit United States assistance to develop or promote any rail connections or railway-related connections that traverse or connect Baku, Azerbaijan, Tbilisi, Georgia, and Kars, Turkey, and that specifically exclude cities in Armenia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to block U.S. support for yet another anti-Armenian initiative.

In numerous cases over the last few years, the Turkish government has methodically sought to isolate Armenia economically, politically and socially. One of the most egregious examples was the imposition of a 1993 blockade against Armenia in support of Azerbaijan's war against Karabakh Armenians.

The Turkish government has routinely sought to exclude Armenia from projects that would benefit the economies of the countries of the South Caucasus. The latest example of this policy is the proposal to build a new rail line that would connect Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan. Similar to the Baku-Ceyhan pipeline, this rail link would specifically go around Armenia.

Now, geographically, we all know that a pipeline or rail line that seeks to connect Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan would have to pass through Armenia. One would have to make a special effort to bypass Armenia.

The U.S. should not endorse Turkey and Azerbaijan's politically motivated attempt to isolate Armenia.

I therefore rise today in opposition to this plan, and to introduce legislation, along with my colleague, Senator SANTORUM, that would bar U.S. support and funding for a rail link connecting Georgia and Turkey, and which specifically excludes Armenia. This project is estimated to cost up to $800 million and would take three years to complete. The aim of this costly approach, as publicly stated by Azeri President Aliyev, is to isolate Armenia by enhancing the ongoing Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades and to keep the existing Turkey-Armenia-Georgia rail link shut down. This ill-conceived project runs counter to U.S. policy, ignores the standing Kars-Gyumri rail route, is politically and economically flawed and serves to destabilize the region.

U.S. policy in the South Caucasus seeks to foster regional cooperation and economic integration and supports open borders and transport and communication corridors. U.S. support for this project would run counter to that policy which is why Senator SANTORUM and I are introducing this legislation today.

We cannot continue to stoke the embers of regional conflict by supporting projects that deliberately exclude one of the region's most important members. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2462. A bill to permit startup partnership and S corporations to elect taxable years other than required years; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill that will offer small businesses greater flexibility in complying with their tax obligations. This legislation is one of a series of proposals that, once enacted, will reduce not only the amount of taxes that small businesses pay, but also will reduce the administrative burden that saddles small companies when trying to comply with the tax laws.

The proposal that I am introducing today will permit start-up small business owners to use a taxable year other than the calendar year if they generally earn fewer than $5 million during the tax year.

Before I talk about the specifics of this particular provision, let me first explain why it is so critical that we begin evaluating how we can reduce the administrative burden of the tax code. As is well-known small businesses are the backbone of our Nation's economy. According to the Small Business Administration, small businesses represent 99 percent all employers, employ 51 percent of the private-sector workforce, and contribute 51 percent of the private sector output.

Yet, despite the fact that small businesses are the real job-creators for our Nation's economy, the current tax system is placing an entirely unreasonable burden on them when trying to satisfy their tax obligations. The current tax code imposes a large, and expensive, burden on all taxpayers in terms of satisfying their reporting and record-keeping obligations. The problem, though, is that small companies are disadvantaged most in terms of the money and time spent in satisfying their tax obligation.

For example, according to the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy, small businesses spend an astounding 8 billion hours each year complying with government reports. They also spend more than 80 percent of this time on completing tax forms. What's even more troubling is that companies that employ fewer than 20 employees spend nearly $1,304 per employee in tax compliance costs; an amount that is nearly 67 percent more than larger firms.

These statistics are disturbing for several reasons. First, the fact that small businesses are being required to spend so much money on compliance costs means they have fewer earnings to reinvest into their business. This, in turn, means that they have less money to spend on new equipment or on worker training, which unfortunately has an adverse effect on their overall production and the economy as a whole.

Second, the fact that small business owners are required to make such a sizeable investment of their time into completing paperwork means they have less time to spend on doing what they do best—namely running their business and creating jobs.

Let me be clear that I am in no way suggesting that small business owners are unique in having to pay income taxes, and I'm certainly not expecting them to receive a free pass. What I'm asking for, though, is a change to make the tax code fairer and simpler so that small companies can satisfy this obligation without having to expend the amount of resources that they do currently.

For that reason, the package of proposals that I have introduced will provide not only targeted, affordable tax relief to small business owners, but also simpler rules under the tax code. By simplifying the tax code, small

business owners will be able to satisfy their tax obligation in a cheaper, more efficient manner, allowing them to be able to devote more time and resources to their business.

Specifically, the proposal that I am introducing today will permit more taxpayers to use the taxable year most suitable to their business cycle. Until 1986, businesses could elect the taxable year-end that made the most economic sense for the business. In 1986, Congress passed legislation requiring partnerships and S corporations, many of which are small businesses, to adopt a December 31 year-end. The tax code does provide alternatives to the calendar year for small businesses, but the compliance costs and administrative burdens associated with these alternatives prove to be too high for most small businesses to utilize.

Meanwhile, C corporations, as large corporations often are, receive much more flexibility in their choice of taxable year. A C corporation can adopt either a calendar year or any fiscal year for tax purposes, as along as it keeps its books on that basis. This creates the unfair result of allowing larger businesses with greater resources greater flexibility in choosing a taxable year than smaller firms with fewer resources. This simply does not make sense to me. My bill changes these existing rules so that more small businesses will be able to use the taxable year that best suits their business.

Importantly, these changes will not reduce the amount of taxes a small business pays by even one dollar. The overall amount of taxes a qualifying small business pays will remain the same. This bill simply permits more taxpayers to use a taxable year other than the calendar year and makes tax compliance easier.

This bill is good policy and common sense. I look forward to working with the bill's cosponsor, Senator LINCOLN, in providing small businesses with more flexibility in meeting their tax obligations.

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. 2462

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 ''Small Business Tax Flexibility Act of 2006''.

SEC. 2. QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESSES ELECTION OF TAXABLE YEAR ENDING IN A MONTH FROM APRIL TO NOVEMBER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part I of subchapter E of chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to accounting periods) is amended by inserting after section 444 the following new section:

''SEC. 444A. QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESSES ELECTION OF TAXABLE YEAR ENDING IN A MONTH FROM APRIL TO NOVEMBER.

''(a) GENERAL RULE.—A qualified small business may elect to have a taxable year, other than the required taxable year, which ends on the last day of any of the months of April through November (or at the end of an equivalent annual period (varying from 52 to 53 weeks)).

''(b) YEARS FOR WHICH ELECTION EFFECTIVE.—An election under subsection (a)—

''(1) shall be made not later than the due date (including extensions thereof) for filing the return of tax for the first taxable year of the qualified small business, and

''(2) shall be effective for such first taxable year or period and for all succeeding taxable years of such qualified small business until such election is terminated under subsection (c).

''(c) TERMINATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An election under subsection (a) shall be terminated on the earliest of—

''(A) the first day of the taxable year following the taxable year for which the entity fails to meet the gross receipts test,

''(B) the date on which the entity fails to qualify as an S corporation, or

''(C) the date on which the entity terminates.

''(2) GROSS RECEIPTS TEST.—For purposes of paragraph (1), an entity fails to meet the gross receipts test if the entity fails to meet the gross receipts test of section 448(c).

''(3) EFFECT OF TERMINATION.—An entity with respect to which an election is terminated under this subsection shall determine its taxable year for subsequent taxable years under any other method that would be permitted under subtitle A.

''(4) INCOME INCLUSION AND DEDUCTION RULES FOR PERIOD AFTER TERMINATION.—If the termination of an election under paragraph (1)(A) results in a short taxable year—

''(A) items relating to net profits for the period beginning on the day after its last fiscal year-end and ending on the day before the beginning of the taxable year determined under paragraph (3) shall be includible in income ratably over the 4 taxable years following the year of termination, or (if fewer) the number of taxable years equal to the fiscal years for which the election under this section was in effect, and

''(B) items relating to net losses for such period shall be deductible in the first taxable year after the taxable year with respect to which the election terminated.

''(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) QUALIFIED SMALL BUSINESS.—The term 'qualified small business' means an entity—

''(A)(i) for which an election under section 1362(a) is in effect for the first taxable year or period of such entity and for all subsequent years, or

''(ii) which is treated as a partnership for the first taxable year or period of such entity for Federal income tax purposes,

''(B) which conducts an active trade or business or which would qualify for an election to amortize start-up expenditures under section 195, and

''(C) which is a start-up business.

''(2) START-UP BUSINESS.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(C), an entity shall be treated as a start-up business so long as not more than 75 percent of the entity is owned by any person or persons who previously conducted a similar trade or business at any time within the 1-year period ending on the date on which such entity is formed. For purposes of the preceding sentence, a person and any other person bearing a relationship to such person specified in section 267(b) or 707(b)(1) shall be treated as one person, and sections 267(b) and 707(b)(1) shall be applied as if section 267(c)(4) provided that the family of an individual consists of the individual's spouse and the individual's children under the age of 21.

''(3) REQUIRED TAXABLE YEAR.—The term 'required taxable year' has the meaning given to such term by section 444(e).

''(e) TIERED STRUCTURES.—The Secretary shall prescribe rules similar to the rules of section 444(d)(3) to eliminate abuse of this section through the use of tiered structures.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 444(a)(1) of such Code is amended by striking ''section,'' and inserting ''section and section 444A''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for part I of subchapter E of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 444 the following new item:

''Sec. 444A. Qualified small businesses election of taxable year ending in a month from April to November.''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2005.

By Mr. SUNUNU (for himself and Mr. GREGG):

S. 2463. A bill to designate as wilderness certain National Forest System land in the State of New Hampshire; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation with my friend, the senior Senator from New Hampshire, JUDD GREGG, which will designate approximately 34,500 acres of forest land in the State of New Hampshire as wilderness. Our bill, the New Hampshire Wilderness Act of 2006, will enact the recommended wilderness designations as set forth in the Forest Service Management Plan for the White Mountain National Forest.

Established under the Weeks Act of 1911, the White Mountain National Forest consists of nearly 800,000 acres—732,000 acres in the State of New Hampshire and 65,000 acres more in Maine. Over 6 million people visit the White Mountain National Forest annually, making it one of the most popular National Forests in the Nation.

In November of 2005, the Forest Service recommended the designation of additional acreage as wilderness in its management plan for the White Mountain National Forest. The bill that Senator GREGG and I are introducing today, the New Hampshire Wilderness Act of 2006, incorporates the recommendations of this management plan by designating some 23,700 acres in the area of the Wild River as wilderness, and adding another 10,800 acres to the existing Sandwich Range Wilderness. This land would remain as White Mountain National Forest land under the protection of the National Wilderness Preservation System. Similar legislation is to be introduced in the House of Representatives by our New Hampshire colleagues, Representative CHARLES BASS and Representative JEB BRADLEY.

With the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, Congress set out to permanently preserve areas of natural beauty for the public to enjoy; areas ''where the earth and its community of life are

untrammeled by man.'' New Hampshire was one of the original States in 1964 to have wilderness designated with the establishment of the Great Gulf Wilderness, and it reflects the view in our State that Granite Staters place a premium on safeguarding our natural heritage for future generations. In New Hampshire, we presently have four wilderness areas comprising more than 102,800 acres; and with the passage of this bill, we will expand one current wilderness area and create a fifth.

In New Hampshire, we have a tradition of multiple use for the consideration of our forest lands. In the White Mountain National Forest, it is generally understood that decisions affecting the forest are vetted thoroughly and that consensus is the guideline by which policies are implemented. Indeed, the development of the White Mountain National Forest Management Plan is one of the few times in the last 30 years that the final decision on how a particular National Forest will be managed over the next 15 years was not subject to an administrative appeal by concerned citizens.

As my colleagues know, wilderness areas consist of Federal lands that are permanently reserved from such activities as mining, logging, road construction, vehicular traffic, and building construction. By law, the establishment of new wilderness must be approved by Congress. That presents a unique responsibility on the part of lawmakers to reflect the views of community leaders, residents, visitors and other interested parties in designating wilderness. Given the consensus approach they undertook in their decision-making process for the White Mountain National Forest, we chose to pattern our legislation on the recommendations set forth by the Forest Service.

One need only experience the beauty of the White Mountain National Forest once to understand the need to preserve it for future generations. The Forest Service has done an admirable job in putting together a Forest Management Plan that all can support. I am pleased to introduce this measure with Senator GREGG, and I encourage my colleagues to give quick consideration to our legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the New Hampshire Wilderness Act of 2006 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. 2463

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 ''New Hampshire Wilderness Act of 2006''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

(2) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of New Hampshire.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS.

In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following Federal land in the State is designated as wilderness and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 23,700 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Wild River Wilderness—White Mountain National Forest'', dated February 6, 2006, which shall be known as the ''Wild River Wilderness''.

(2) Certain Federal land managed by the Forest Service, comprising approximately 10,800 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''Proposed Sandwich Range Wilderness Additions—White Mountain National Forest'', dated February 6, 2006, and which are incorporated in the Sandwich Range Wilderness, as designated by the New Hampshire Wilderness Act of 1984 (Public Law 98–323; 98 Stat. 259).

SEC. 4. MAP AND DESCRIPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and a legal description of each wilderness area designated by section 3 with the committees of appropriate jurisdiction in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(b) FORCE AND EFFECT.—A map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description filed under subsection (a) shall be filed and made available for public inspection in the Office of the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area designated under this section shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with—

(1) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(2) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE OF WILDERNESS ACT.—With respect to any wilderness area designated by this Act, any reference in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) FISH AND WILDLIFE.—As provided in section 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this Act affects any jurisdiction or responsibility of the State with respect to wildlife and fish in the State.

(d) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, all Federal land in the wilderness areas designated by section 3 are withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) disposition under the mineral leasing laws (including geothermal leasing laws).

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself and Mr. KYL):

S. 2464. A bill to revise a provision relating to a repayment obligation of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation under the Fort McDowell Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act of 1990, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to revise the Fort McDowell Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act of 1990 in order to bring the Settlement Act process to an orderly conclusion. The 1990 Act ratified a negotiated settlement of the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation's water entitlement to flow from the Verde River. The Department of the Interior provided technical assistance in crafting this legislation. I am pleased to be joined by Senator KYL as an original cosponsor of this bill.

As part of Water Rights settlement, Congress authorized and directed the Secretary of the Interior to provide the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation a no-interest loan pursuant to the Small Reclamation Project Act, in the amount of $13 million, to construct facilities for the conveyance and delivery of water to 1,584 acres on the Fort McDowell reservation. Prior to construction of the irrigation system, the Department of the Interior conducted its environmental review pursuant to NEPA. The review revealed that 227 of the acres to be irrigated were significant cultural sites and the Secretary subsequently withdrew those acres from development. The Department proposed to develop replacement lands, subject to the availability of funding. To date, however, the replacement lands have not been developed and the settlement agreement has been left uncompleted.

In October 2005, the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and the Department of the Interior agreed that the Department's environmental mitigation responsibility for the replacement lands should be resolved through legislation. They proposed that the Department forgive and cancel Fort McDowell's obligation to repay the mandatory loan in return for the Tribe's forgiving the Department of the Interior's responsibility to develop 227 mitigation acres. The Yavapai Nation and the Department further agree that funds already advanced to the Tribe toward development of the replacement acres would be reprogrammed to fund other water development projects on the Yavapai Nation's reservation.

The bill introduced today implements the Yavapai Nation's and the Department's agreement by effectively resolving the replacement land mitigation cost for the Department and the loan repayment by the Tribe. This agreement shall constitute completion of all conditions necessary to accomplish full and final settlement. Resolution of this last remaining issue fully implements the Fort McDowell Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act of 1990. 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. 2464

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 ''Fort McDowell Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Revision Act of 2006''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FORT MCDOWELL WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT.—The term ''Fort McDowell Water Rights Settlement Act'' means the Fort McDowell Indian Community Water Rights Settlement Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–628; 104 Stat. 4480).

(2) NATION.—The term ''Nation'' means the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, formerly known as the ''Fort McDowell Indian Community''.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. CANCELLATION OF REPAYMENT OBLIGATION.

(a) CANCELLATION OF OBLIGATION.—The obligation of the Nation to repay the loan made under section 408(e) of the Fort McDowell Water Rights Settlement Act (104 Stat. 4489) is cancelled.

(b) EFFECT OF ACT.—

(1) RIGHTS OF NATION UNDER FORT MCDOWELL WATER RIGHTS SETTLEMENT ACT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), nothing in this Act alters or affects any right of the Nation under the Fort McDowell Water Rights Settlement Act.

(B) EXCEPTION.—The cancellation of the repayment obligation under subsection (a) shall be considered—

(i) to fulfill all conditions required to achieve a full and final settlement of all claims to water rights or injuries to water rights under the Fort McDowell Water Rights Settlement Act; and

(ii) to relieve the Secretary of any responsibility or obligation to obtain mitigation property or develop additional farm acreage under section 410 the Fort McDowell Water Rights Settlement Act (104 Stat. 4490).

(2) ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES AND BENEFITS.—Nothing in this Act alters or affects the eligibility of the Nation or any member of the Nation for any service or benefit provided by the Federal Government to federally recognized Indian tribes or members of such Indian tribes.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 2465. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide increased assistance for the prevention, treatment, and control of tuberculosis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today, I am pleased to introduce the Boxer-Smith-Durbin STOP–TB Now Act of 2006. This bill would authorize additional resources to fight tuberculosis, a deadly infectious disease that knows no borders.

In January, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, a long-term strategy was developed to cut in half the number of TB cases and deaths. This Global Plan to Stop TB estimates that the 10-year cost to control tuberculosis is $56 billion, including $47 billion to detect and treat TB and $9 billion for additional research and development. If this plan is implemented over the next 10 years, it is estimated that it will save the lives of 14 million people throughout the world.

Tuberculosis is a deadly disease, especially in the developing world. Tuberculosis kills nearly 2 million people per year—one person every 15 seconds. One-third of the world is infected with the germ that causes TB and an estimated 8.8 million individuals will develop active TB each year. Tuberculosis is a leading cause of death among women of reproductive age and of people who are HIV-positive.

While developing nations are most heavily impacted by TB, there is also a concern here at home. It is estimated that 10–15 million people in the United States are infected with the germ that causes TB. And, California has more TB cases than any other State in the country. Ten of the top twenty U.S. metro areas for TB case rates are in California; San Francisco, San Jose, San Diego, Fresno, Los Angeles, Stockton, Sacramento, Ventura, Vallejo, and Oakland.

This funding is a wise investment for our Nation. A recent article published in the New England Journal of Medicine found that a $35 million investment in the health system of Mexico to fight TB would yield a savings to the U.S. taxpayer of $108 million in terms of reduced TB healthcare costs domestically.

I have been working with Senator SMITH to fight the spread of international tuberculosis since 1999. I am proud that he has been such a strong partner on this issue. And, I am grateful for the support of Senator Durbin, a champion on the issue of global AIDS and other infectious diseases.

The Boxer-Smith-Durbin bill is consistent with the Global Plan to Stop TB, including the goal to reduce by half the international tuberculosis death and disease burden by 2015. It also sets a goal to detect at least 70 percent of cases of infection tuberculosis, and the cure of at least 85 percent of the cases detected.

The bill authorizes not less than $225 million for fiscal year 2007 and not less than $260 million for fiscal year 2008 for foreign assistance programs that combat international TB. It also creates a separate authorization of $30 million for the Centers for Disease Control to combat international TB.

This bill will not only save lives, it will help reverse a troubling trend—the emergence of multi drug-resistant tuberculosis caused by inconsistent and incomplete treatment. In the U.S., a standard case of TB takes 6 months to cure at the cost of $2,000 per patient. A case of multi drug-resistant TB can take up to 2 years to treat costing as much as $1 million per patient.

TB kills more people than any other curable disease in the world. I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting this important legislation.

By Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 2466. A bill to authorize and direct the exchange and conveyance of certain National Forest land and other land in southeast Arizona; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, today I am pleased to join with Senator MCCAIN to introduce a modified version of S. 1122, the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act, which we introduced last year. This modified bill is a culmination of months of negotiation with members of the climbing community, local and state stakeholders, and other interested parties. It is an effort to strengthen the land exchange in a way that better meets the needs of outdoor recreation, conservation, resource protection, and mining interests.

Let me briefly explain the new provisions in this bill. First, you may recall that S. 1122 contained a placeholder for additional climbing provisions. I included this provision in our bill as a good faith offer to the climbing community to work with us and the proponent of this land exchange, Resolution Copper Company, to address the loss of public access to climbing at Oak Flat in a way that did not compromise public safety. The discussions over the last six months have been fruitful. There will be continued interim use of Oak Flat and some additional access to climbing on Resolution Copper's private land—all subject to public safety requirements.

This modified bill goes a step further in addressing the loss of recreation at Oak Flat. S. 1122 required the identification and development of a replacement climbing site. I am pleased to announce that representatives from Resolution Copper, working in cooperation with climbers and federal land managers, have found a climbing gem about 20 miles from Oak Flat, near Hayden and Kearny, Arizona in the Tam O'Shanter Mountains. ''Tamo,'' as it is now nicknamed, has the quality of rock and the elevation and diversity of cliffs, climbing walls, and boulders that rock climbers seek. Couple these characteristics with Arizona's mild weather and this site has the potential to be a four season climbing destination and tourism draw for Arizona.

Recognizing this potential, Arizona State Parks, Resolution Copper, and the Bureau of Land Management in cooperation with the communities and other mining interests, have been working together on a proposal to turn ''Tamo'' into Arizona's newest State park. This proposed State park would place a special emphasis on rock climbing, but would also have opportunities for camping and other outdoor recreation. To turn ''Tamo'' into State park is not an easy task. Currently, Arizona State Parks lack the legal authority to acquire ''Tamo,'' but it is seeking it through the Arizona state legislature. I am pleased to report that a State bill containing this authority successfully passed the state Senate with overwhelming support from the Sierra Club, Access Fund, and ASARCO, a mining company operating in the vicinity. The stakeholders tell me this issue and others concerning access to the site are close to resolution. For this reason, I am including language in this bill that would facilitate a recreation and public purposes conveyance of ''Tamo'' to Arizona State Parks.

This conveyance, of course, would be subject to resolution of these issues.

Besides addressing climbing and recreation concerns, this modified bill does even more for environmental conservation and effective land management than the original by adding to the private land package two additional parcels: East Clear Creek and Dripping Springs.

The East Clear Creek parcel encompasses 640 acres and is one of the largest single blocks of private inholdings within the Coconino National Forest. The parcel includes two miles of East Clear Creek, hence its name, and magnificent canyons that drop as much as 2,000 feet in some areas. This unique landscape is a wildlife transition zone between the upper plateau dominated by ponderosa pine and the riparian corridor of the creek, allowing it to support several threatened and sensitive species including bald eagle, peregrine falcon, fish, reptile and amphibian species and big game species such as Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, turkey, and black bear. This parcel has been identified and is strongly endorsed for public acquisition by the U.S. Forest Service and the Trust for Public Lands.

The Dripping Springs parcel encompasses 160 acres in the Dripping Springs Mountains near Tam O'Shanter Peak in Gila County. This parcel has rock formations with excellent climbing opportunities and is within the contemplated boundaries of the proposed state park.

In summary, this land exchange gives us the ability to preserve highly sought-after land, important for wildlife habitat, cultural resources, watershed and land-management objectives, to promote outdoor recreation and tourism, and to generate economic opportunities for state and local residents in the copper triangle region in Arizona. It is good for our environment and our economy. I urge my colleagues to approve the legislation at the earliest possible date.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 407—RECOGNIZING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL AS A NATIONAL TREASURE

Mr. MENENDEZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

S. RES. 407

Whereas, since slavery was introduced into the European colonies in 1619, enslaved Africans remained in bondage until the United States ratified the 13th amendment to the Constitution in 1865;

Whereas, during that period of the history of the United States, the first expression of that unique American music was created by enslaved African Americans who—

(1) used their knowledge of the English language and the Christian religious faith, as it had been taught to them in the New World; and

(2) stealthily wove within the music their experience of coping with human servitude and their strong desire to be free;

Whereas, as a method of survival, enslaved African Americans who were forbidden to speak their native languages, play musical instruments they had used in Africa, or practice their traditional religious beliefs, relied on their strong African oral tradition of songs, stories, proverbs, and historical accounts to create this original music, now known as spirituals;

Whereas Calvin Earl, a noted performer and educator on African American spirituals, remarked that the Christian lyrics became a metaphor for freedom from slavery, a secret way for slaves to ''communicate with each other, teach their children, record their history, and heal their pain.'';

Whereas the New Jersey Historical Commission found that ''some of those daring and artful runaway slaves who entered New Jersey by way of the Underground Railroad no doubt sang the words of old Negro spirituals like 'Steal Away' before embarking on their perilous journey north.'';

Whereas African American spirituals spread all over the United States, and the songs we know of today may only represent a small portion of the total number of spirituals that once existed;

Whereas Frederick Douglass, a fugitive slave who would become one of the leading abolitionists of the United States, remarked that the spirituals ''told a tale of woe which was then altogether beyond my feeble comprehension; they were tones loud, long, and deep; they breathed the prayer and complaint of souls boiling over with the bitterest anguish. Every tone was a testimony against slavery and a prayer to God for deliverance from chains. . . .''; and

Whereas the American Folklife Preservation Act (Public Law 105–275; 20 U.S.C. 2101 note) finds that ''the diversity inherent in American folklife has contributed greatly to the cultural richness of the nation and has fostered a sense of individuality and identity among the American people.'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that African American spirituals are a poignant and powerful genre of music that have become one of the most significant segments of American music in existence;

(2) expresses the deepest gratitude, recognition, and honor to the former enslaved Africans in the United States for their gifts to our Nation, including their original music and oral history; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation that reflects on the important contribution of African American spirituals to American history, and naming the African American spiritual a national treasure.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution honoring the African American Spiritual as a national treasure. This important piece of legislation recognizes that the African American spiritual is a poignant and powerful genre of American music that contributes to the cultural richness of our country.

I am very proud to sponsor this resolution and grateful to the individuals who helped make this landmark occasion possible. In particular, I would like to thank Calvin Earl, a New Jersey native, who is a noted performer and educator on African American spirituals for his vision and dedication in helping make this resolution a reality. I also would like to thank the staff at the American Folklife Center in the Library of Congress for their endless expertise and insight.

SENATE RESOLUTION 408—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD DECLARE LUNG CANCER A PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITY AND SHOULD IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE INTERAGENCY PROGRAM THAT WILL REDUCE LUNG CANCER MORTALITY BY AT LEAST 50 PERCENT BY 2015

Mr. HAGEL (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 408

Whereas lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for both men and women, accounting for 28 percent of all cancer deaths;

Whereas lung cancer kills more people annually than breast cancer, prostate cancer, colon cancer, liver cancer, melanoma, and kidney cancer combined;

Whereas, since the National Cancer Act of 1971 (Public Law 92–218; 85 Stat. 778), coordinated and comprehensive research has elevated the 5-year survival rates for breast cancer to 87 percent, for prostate cancer to 99 percent, and colon cancer to 64 percent;

Whereas the survival rate for lung cancer is still only 15 percent and a similar coordinated and comprehensive research effort is required to achieve increases in lung cancer survivability rates;

Whereas 60 percent of lung cancer is now diagnosed in nonsmokers and former smokers;

Whereas ⅔ of nonsmokers diagnosed with lung cancer are women;

Whereas certain minority populations, such as black males, have disproportionately high rates of lung cancer incidence and mortality, notwithstanding their lower smoking rate;

Whereas members of the Baby Boomer generation are entering their sixties, the most common age for the development of cancer;

Whereas tobacco addiction and exposure to other lung cancer carcinogens such as Agent Orange and other herbicides and battlefield emissions are serious problems among military personnel and war veterans;

Whereas the August 2001 Report of the Lung Cancer Progress Review Group of the National Cancer Institute stated that funding for lung cancer research was ''far below the levels characterized for other common malignancies and far out of proportion to its massive health impact'';

Whereas the Report of the Lung Cancer Progress Review Group identified as its ''highest priority'' the creation of integrated, multidisciplinary, multi-institutional research consortia organized around the problem of lung cancer rather than around specific research disciplines; and

Whereas the United States must enhance its response to the issues raised in the Report of the Lung Cancer Progress Review Group: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the President should—

(1) declare lung cancer a public health priority and immediately lead a coordinated effort to reduce the mortality rate of lung cancer by 50 percent by 2015;

(2) direct the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to increase funding for lung cancer research and other