

dependence on oil and gas. They do not think our national energy policy is doing enough. They are eager to do things that make them feel like they can take responsibility for overcoming their dependence on oil and gas. As gas prices continue to climb this spring and summer, more and more people are going to be looking for something that they can do to free themselves from this dependency. The bill I am introducing today gives Americans more incentive to give up the cars and trucks that they drive to and from work everyday and get on their bicycles instead.

According to recent Census reports, more than 500,000 people throughout the United States commute to work by bicycle. They are freeing themselves from sitting in traffic. They are saving energy and overcoming their dependence on oil and gas. They are getting exercise; avoiding obesity and helping us keep our air clean and safe to breathe.

Yet they are commuting by bicycle at their own expense. Their fellow employees who take mass transit to and from work have an incentive created in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century that enables their employers to pay for their bus or subway ride. This incentive is great for mass transit commuters but it discourages people from riding their bikes to and from their jobs. The Bicycle Commuters Benefits Act of 2006 will eliminate this discrimination against bicycle commuters.

The bill extends the fringe benefit that employers can offer their employees for commuting by public transit, to those who ride their bicycles to and from their jobs. Our bill amends the tax code so that public and private employers can offer their employees a monthly benefit payment that will help them cover the costs of riding their bikes, instead of driving and parking their cars where they work. The bill also provides employers the flexibility to set their own level of benefit payment up to a specified cap amount. That way, employers and their employees can decide how much of an incentive they need to stop driving and start riding their bikes. Those who currently ride the bus and/or subway to work would also gain an extra incentive to ride their bikes. Employers can deduct the cost of their benefit payments from their taxable income. This reduces the taxes that they pay to the Federal Government. And, in turn, employees will receive anywhere from \$40-\$100 per month as a non-taxable benefit, to help them pay for the costs of riding their bikes.

I think that this is a fair and modest proposal that will reward employees who ride their bikes to and from their jobs.

Our Senate bill matches HR 807 that was introduced during the first session of the 109th Congress by my fellow Oregonian, Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER. He has 47 co-sponsors from

both sides of the aisle and every part of the United States eager to offer bicycle commuters the same incentive that I want to give commuters who take mass transit.

In addition, our bill is supported by many regional and national bicycling organizations such as Cycle Oregon, the Bicycle Transportation Alliance, the League of American Bicyclists, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association and hundreds of Capitol Hill employees who commute by bike to work every day.

When you think about it and you look around our cities, the taxpayers have paid for millions of dollars of bike trails in all of America's urban areas and major job markets. Now, bicycle commuters will have an extra incentive to use them to commute to and from their jobs.

One week from today, we will start celebrating May as "National Bike-to-Work" month. I can't think of any better way to commemorate this special month than by introducing this legislation. I look forward to working with our colleagues to see this legislation pass.

I ask unanimous consent that 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. 2635

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 "Bicycle Commuters Benefits Act of 2006".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF TRANSPORTATION FRINGE BENEFIT TO BICYCLE COMMUTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 132(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to general rule for qualified transportation fringe) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(D) Bicycle commuting allowance."

(b) BICYCLE COMMUTING ALLOWANCE DEFINED.—Paragraph (5) of section 132(f) of such Code (relating to definitions) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(F) BICYCLE COMMUTING ALLOWANCE.—The term 'bicycle commuting allowance' means an amount provided to an employee for transportation on a bicycle if such transportation is in connection with travel between the employee's residence and place of employment."

(c) LIMITATION ON EXCLUSION.—Paragraph (2) of section 132(f) of such Code is amended by striking "subparagraphs (A) and (B)" and inserting "subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D)".

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

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 89—HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Mr. GREGG submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was re-

ferred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 89

Whereas the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution (referred to in this preamble as the "Sons of the American Revolution") was—

(1) founded on April 30, 1889; and

(2) chartered by Congress 100 years ago on June 9, 1906;

Whereas the congressional charter was signed by President Theodore Roosevelt, who was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution;

Whereas the Sons of the American Revolution was conceived as a fraternal and civic society composed of lineal descendants of individuals who—

(1) wintered at Valley Forge;

(2) signed the Declaration of Independence;

(3) fought during the American Revolutionary War;

(4) served in the Continental Congress; or

(5) supported the cause of American Independence;

Whereas 16 Presidents have been proud members of the Sons of the American Revolution;

Whereas the charter of the Sons of the American Revolution describes the objects and purposes of the Society as "... patriotic, historical and educational";

Whereas the Sons of the American Revolution is devoted to—

(1) perpetuating the memory of the individuals who, by their services or sacrifices during the American Revolutionary War, achieved independence for the United States;

(2) inspiring citizens to revere the principles that the forefathers incorporated into the Government of the United States; and

(3) encouraging the development of historical research about the American Revolutionary War;

Whereas the Sons of the American Revolution has a long record of accomplishments in providing educational resources related to—

(1) the American Revolutionary War; and

(2) individuals who helped the original 13 British colonies gain sovereignty during the War for Independence;

Whereas, largely through the efforts of the Sons of the American Revolution during the late 1800s and early 1900s, the National Archives was established to gather the records of the individuals who served during the American Revolutionary War;

Whereas the Sons of the American Revolution advances its mission by commemorating battles and events that led to the formation of the United States;

Whereas the Sons of the American Revolution devotes a great deal of time, energy, and resources to working with children so that they may gain a better understanding of the history of the United States;

Whereas the Sons of the American Revolution is constructing a new facility adjacent to its national headquarters for the newly-established Center for Advancing America's Heritage; and

Whereas approximately 27,000 members of the Sons of the American Revolution are organized in chapters throughout 50 States, the District of Columbia, and in the numerous countries throughout the world that helped the original 13 British colonies win independence as the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the 100th anniversary of the historic congressional charter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution; and

(2) honors and praises the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for—

(A) the work of the Society to perpetuate and honor the memory of the brave individuals who fought for freedom during the War for Independence; and

(B) the unflinching devotion of the Society to the youth of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3588. Mr. CRAIG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4939, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3589. Mr. BURR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4939, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3590. Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4939, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3588. Mr. CRAIG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4939, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

REPEAL OF PROVISIONS REQUIRING OUTREACH TO VETERANS ON BENEFITS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO VETERANS UNDER LAW

SEC. ____ . Section 228 of The Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-114; 119 Stat. 2393) is repealed.

SA 3589. Mr. BURR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4939, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 238, line 23, strike "Control and Prevention, and" and insert "Control and Prevention, \$65,000,000 shall be for the Smithsonian Institution to carry out global and domestic disease surveillance, and".

SA 3590. Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4939, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 162, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

RAMAPO RIVER AT OAKLAND FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

For an additional amount for the Corps of Engineers for the completion of the Ramapo River at Oakland flood control project in the State of New Jersey, \$2,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the amount provided under this heading is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Monday, April 24, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony regarding the economic and environmental issues associated with coal liquefaction technology and on implementation of the provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 addressing coal gasification.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact John Peschke 202-224-4797 or Shannon Ewan at 202-224-7555.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, the chair would like to inform the Members of the Committee that the Committee will hold a hearing on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at 10:30 a.m. in Russell 428A to address the reauthorization of Finance and Entrepreneurial Development programs administered by the Small Business Administration.

AUTHORITIES FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, April 24, at 2:30 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony regarding the economic and environmental issues associated with coal liquefaction technology and on implementation of the provisions of the energy policy act of 2005 addressing coal liquefaction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d-276g, as amended, appoints the following Senators as members of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-U.S. Inter-parliamentary Group during the Second Session of the 109th Congress: the Honorable WAYNE ALLARD of Colorado and the Honorable GEORGE V. VOINOVICH of Ohio.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that immediately following morning business on Tuesday, the Senate proceed to executive session and to the consideration of Calendar No. 602, Gary Miller to be a U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas; further, that there be 5 minutes of debate for each of the Senators from Texas and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate proceed to a vote on the nomination; provided further that following the vote, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAMBLISS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

REFERRAL OF S. 2612

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that S. 2612 be referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2603 AND S. 2611

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bills by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2603) to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2611) to provide for comprehensive immigration reform, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Without objection, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2006

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:45 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, April 25. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate proceed to a period of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the final 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee; further, that following the vote on the