

of energy, including wind, solar, clean coal—and nuclear. And earlier this year, this administration introduced the Advanced Energy Initiative—AEI—to support research and development of new energy sources—including nuclear power. In fact, the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership—GNEP—is one part of the AEI. One goal of GNEP is to reduce the amount and toxicity of nuclear waste ultimately destined for disposal at Yucca Mountain; another goal is to eventually help expand the deployment of emission-free nuclear power in developing countries that otherwise would need to depend on burning fossil fuels for their growing energy demands. Contrary to Senator REID's comments about doing nothing to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, we have done a great deal to develop emission-free energy in this country and abroad. But the deployment of nuclear power requires that we manage the spent fuel from nuclear power plants in a safe and responsible manner. One aspect of that management strategy must be to open the Yucca Mountain repository as soon as possible.

As Senator DOMENICI has said, Yucca Mountain is the cornerstone of a comprehensive spent-fuel management strategy for this country, but Yucca alone cannot meet the government's spent-fuel obligations. Through GNEP we will also explore technologies that promise to reduce the volume and toxicity of spent fuel. Thus, GNEP, interim storage and Yucca Mountain together provide a comprehensive program for safely managing our Nation's Nuclear waste.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 588—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT STATES SHOULD HAVE IN PLACE BACKUP SYSTEMS TO DEAL WITH ANY FAILURE OF ELECTRONIC VOTING EQUIPMENT DURING THE NOVEMBER 7, 2006, GENERAL ELECTION

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. KERRY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 588

Whereas widespread problems with new voting technology have been reported this year in primaries in Ohio, Arkansas, Illinois, Maryland, and elsewhere;

Whereas States such as Texas, Arkansas, and others have had to unexpectedly administer provisional ballots after electronic voting machines failed;

Whereas equipment malfunctions in the Arkansas district 16 State Senate primary race precipitated a recount that, in turn, produced a new winner;

Whereas computer problems in 4 southern Indiana counties required workers to manually enter the number of votes for each candidate in each precinct;

Whereas a deadline to test electronic voting machines in West Virginia was pushed back to the day before the May 9 primary

election due to problems and delays with the new machines;

Whereas glitches in the electronic voter check-in system in Montgomery County, Maryland, resulted in polls remaining open for additional hours and required a recount of thousands of paper provisional ballots;

Whereas 40 percent of registered voters nationally are expected to cast ballots on new machines in the November 7 midterm elections;

Whereas the larger number of voters participating in the November 7 midterm elections may result in even more equipment failures than occurred in the primary elections;

Whereas millions of voters could be disenfranchised in the November 7 midterm elections, as thousands have already been in 2006 primary elections, due to the failure of electronic voting machines; and

Whereas former Attorney General Richard Thornburgh and former Ohio Governor Richard Celeste, co-chairs of the Committee to Study a Framework for Understanding Electronic Voting of the National Academies' National Research Council wrote recently: "If major problems arise with unproven technology and new election procedures, the political heat will be high indeed. . . . Jurisdictions need to come up with contingency plans for such November problems, if they haven't done so already. One possible example: Make preparations to fall back to paper ballots if necessary." Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that each State and jurisdiction that uses electronic voting equipment should have in place for use in the November 7, 2006, general election a backup system, such as the use of paper ballots, in the case of any failure of the electronic voting equipment.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 119—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT PUBLIC POLICY SHOULD CONTINUE TO PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN THE ABILITY OF FARMERS AND RANCHERS TO JOIN TOGETHER IN COOPERATIVE SELF-HELP EFFORTS

Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. TALENT, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BOND, Mr. ENZI, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. CON. RES. 119

Whereas, the ability of farmers and ranchers in the United States to join together in cooperative self-help efforts is vital to their continued economic viability;

Whereas, Federal laws have long recognized the importance of protecting and strengthening the ability of farmers and ranchers to join together in cooperative self-help efforts, including to cooperatively market their products, ensure access to competitive markets, and help achieve other important public policy goals;

Whereas, farmer- and rancher-owned cooperatives play an important role in helping farmers and ranchers improve their income from the marketplace, manage their risk, meet their credit and other input needs, and compete more effectively in a rapidly changing global economy;

Whereas, farmer- and rancher-owned cooperatives also play an important role in providing consumers in the United States and abroad with a dependable supply of safe, affordable, high-quality food, fiber and related products;

Whereas, farmer- and rancher-owned cooperatives also help meet the energy needs of the United States, including through the production and marketing of renewable fuels such as ethanol and biodiesel;

Whereas, there are nearly 3,000 farmer- and rancher-owned cooperatives located throughout the United States with a combined membership representing a majority of the nearly 2 million farmers and ranchers in the United States; and

Whereas, farmer- and rancher-owned cooperatives also contribute significantly to the economic well being of rural America as well as the overall economy, including accounting for as many as 250,000 jobs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the Sense of the Congress that public policy should continue to protect and strengthen the ability of farmers and ranchers to join together in cooperative self-help efforts—

(1) to improve their income from the marketplace and their economic well-being;

(2) to capitalize on new market opportunities; and

(3) to help meet the food and fiber needs of consumers, provide for increased energy production, promote rural development, maintain and create needed jobs, and contribute to a growing United States economy.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 120—EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF CONGRESS FOR THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL HURRICANE MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTER IN SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

Mr. VITTER submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. CON. RES. 120

Whereas the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road District Board of Commissioners has begun to create and develop a National Hurricane Museum and Science Center in the southwest Louisiana area;

Whereas protecting, preserving, and showcasing the intrinsic qualities that make Louisiana a one-of-a-kind experience is the mission of the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road;

Whereas the horrific experience and the devastating long-term effects of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita will play a major role in the history of the United States;

Whereas a science center of this caliber will educate and motivate young and old in the fields of meteorology, environmental science, sociology, conservation, economics, history, communications, and engineering;

Whereas it is only appropriate that the effects of hurricanes and the rebuilding efforts be captured in a comprehensive center such as a National Hurricane Museum and Science Center to interpret the effects of hurricanes in and outside of Louisiana; and

Whereas it is critical that the history of past hurricanes be preserved so that all people in the United States can learn from this history: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress supports and encourages the creation of a National Hurricane Museum and Science Center in southwest Louisiana.