

The President's Centennial Commitment: This is \$100 million a year—one billion dollars over 10 years—for activities to achieve new levels of excellence in our parks. These discretionary funds will be used to hire more seasonal rangers, interpreters, and maintenance workers, repair buildings, improve natural landscapes, and enhance the Junior Ranger Program.

The President's Centennial Challenge: We are challenging individuals, foundations, businesses, and the private sector to contribute at least \$100 million annually to support signature programs and projects in our national parks. The enclosed draft bill would allow us to match those contributions with up to \$100 million of mandatory funding annually for the next ten years.

The proposed National Park Service Centennial Challenge Fund Act would establish the National Park Service Centennial Challenge Fund (Challenge Fund), which would encourage private donations for signature projects and programs in national parks by matching those donations with Federal funds of up to \$100 million a year for a ten year period ending on September 30, 2017. The Fund would be available to the Secretary without further appropriation and with no fiscal year limitations.

A list of signature projects and programs eligible for funding under the Challenge will be included in the Centennial report that the Secretary plans to send to the President in late May 2007. The list will be prepared by the Director of the National Park Service, drawing on ideas generated through listening sessions, public engagement, and the input of Park Service professionals. Additional projects may be added to the list from time to time, as necessary.

The President's Centennial Challenge Fund will not be used to hire NPS permanent staff or for projects outside of park boundaries. Its focus will be on those signature projects and programs that will help prepare the National Park System for another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment.

Soliciting for Centennial Challenge donations will be done primarily through the National Park Foundation and local friends' groups. National Park Service employees will be subject to the current fundraising guidelines. The draft bill clearly states its intent is not to expand existing authority in this area. For large donations, the National Park Service will enter into a written agreement with a donor that lays out the terms and conditions for how the funds will be used.

The President has called on all Americans to help in conserving natural resources and improving the condition of our park facilities. It is his hope and the hope of the Department of the Interior that through leveraging philanthropic, partnership, and government investments for the benefit of national parks and their visitors the national parks can endure for the next 100 years and beyond.

The President's budget includes appropriate proposed offsets within the budget of the Department of the Interior that, if enacted, are sufficient to ensure that this proposal complies with Rule XXI, new clause 10, of the House of Representatives.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that presentation of this proposal to the Congress is in accord with the President's program.

Sincerely,

MARY A. BOMAR,
Director, National Park Service.

THE PROPOSED NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE FUND ACT SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short Title. The first section provides for the title of the Act, the National Park Centennial Fund Act.

Section 2. Findings and Purpose. The second section includes findings explaining the need for the National Park Centennial Challenge and the Challenge Fund established under this Act. Subsection (b) sets forth the purpose of the Act, which is to establish a fund in the Treasury that will include private donations, and provide Federal funds to match those donations, for signature projects and programs to enhance the National Park System as it approaches its Centennial celebration in 2016.

Section 3. Definitions. Section 3 defines the terms used in the Act.

Section 4. National Park Centennial Challenge Fund. This section establishes the National Park Centennial Challenge Fund, the Challenge Fund for short. The Challenge Fund shall consist of amounts for signature projects and programs transferred from the Donations to the National Park Service account and amounts appropriated from the general fund of the Treasury as matching funds.

Subsection (b) provides that all amounts in the Fund are to be available to the Secretary of the Interior without further appropriation and without any fiscal year limitation. This allows the National Park Service (NPS) to receive and match donations for signature projects and programs that may take more than one fiscal year to complete or that may need a certain level of funding before they commence. No funds from this account are to be used for indirect administrative costs. The expenditure of amounts in the Challenge Fund shall follow Federal procurement and financial laws and standards.

Section 5. Signature Projects and Programs. Subsection (a) requires the Secretary, acting through the Director of the NPS, to develop a list of signature projects and programs eligible for funding from the Challenge Fund. That list is to be submitted to the President and to the Senate Committees on Appropriations and Energy and Natural Resources, and the House Committees on Appropriations and Natural Resources. Subsection (b) provides that a signature project or program is a project or program identified by the Director of the NPS as one that will help prepare the NPS for another century of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment. Signature projects and programs will be chosen after listening sessions, public engagement, and the input of NPS employees.

Subsection (c) authorizes the Secretary, acting through the Director, to add projects to the list from time-to-time as they find necessary. It requires notification like that required in subsection (a) for the original list of signature projects and programs.

Section 6. Donations and Matching Funds. Subsection (a) authorizes the Secretary to transfer, to the Challenge Fund qualified donations of cash received by the National Park Service. This includes cash payments to liquidate commitments made under a valid letter of credit.

Subsection (b) appropriates up to \$100 million a year in matching funds. The amount of matching funds made available each year would equal the qualified cash donations received in that year, plus the amount of donations pledged in that year under a valid irrevocable letter of credit. For donations pledged under a letter of credit, a match would be provided when the commitment is made and not a second time when the donation is paid. If a letter of credit is withdrawn, then the associated matching funds

would be returned to the Treasury. Up to \$100 million in matching funds would be available in each year beginning in fiscal year 2008 and going through fiscal year 2017. If all of the \$100 million in matching funds is not used in a given year, the remaining balance cannot be used to increase the amount of matching funds in subsequent years. For example, if only \$60 million in donations or commitments under a letter of credit are received and are thus eligible for the same amount of matching funds in a fiscal year, that does not mean that matching funds available for the next fiscal year would increase to \$140 million.

Subsection (c) specifies that the Secretary may not obligate any amounts based on a letter of credit, or amounts to match a letter of credit pursuant to subsection (b), until the donation promised under a letter of credit is deposited in the Challenge Fund.

Subsection (d) makes it clear that nothing in this Act expands the existing authority of the NPS and its employees with regard to fundraising. NPS employees will still be subject to Director's Order 21, which specifically sets out the guidelines with regard to this matter.

Section 7. Report to Congress. This section requires the Secretary to submit an annual report with the President's budget on the administration of the Centennial Challenge. The report is to include the current list of signature projects and programs and a description of any funding they have received from the Challenge Fund.

Section 8. Regulations. This section authorizes the Secretary to promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 176—RECOGNIZING APRIL 30, 2007, AS "NATIONAL HEALTHY SCHOOLS DAY"

Mrs. CLINTON (for herself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BAYH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 176

Whereas over half of schools have problems linked to indoor air quality;

Whereas children are more vulnerable to environmental hazards as they breathe in more air per pound of body weight due to their developing systems;

Whereas children spend an average of 30 to 50 hours per week in school;

Whereas poor indoor environmental quality is associated with a wide range of problems that include poor concentration, respiratory illnesses, learning difficulties, and cancer;

Whereas research suggests that children attending schools in poor condition score 11 percent lower on standardized tests than students who attend schools in good condition;

Whereas an average of 1 out of every 13 school-age children has asthma, the leading cause of school absenteeism, accounting for approximately 14,700,000 missed school days each year;

Whereas 17 separate studies all found positive health impacts from improved indoor air-quality, ranging from 13.5 percent up to 87 percent improvement;

Whereas our Nation's schools spent approximately \$8,000,000,000 on energy costs in the last school year, causing officials to

make very difficult decisions on cutting back much needed academic programs in efforts to keep the heat and lights on;

Whereas healthy and high performance schools designed to reduce energy and maintenance costs, provide cleaner air, improve lighting, and reduce exposures to toxic substances provide a healthier and safer learning environment for children and improved academic achievement and well-being;

Whereas Congress has demonstrated its interest in this compelling issue by including the Healthy High-Performance Schools Program in the No Child Left Behind Act; and

Whereas our schools have the great responsibility of guiding the future of our children and Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes April 30, 2007, as "National Healthy Schools Day".

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, today is National Healthy Schools Day. This day was established to build awareness and promote healthy school environments for our children and school personnel.

National Healthy Schools Day has been recognized for the past 5 years thanks to the work of the Healthy Schools Network in New York. Many organizations have worked together over the years to raise awareness to the conditions that many of our children and teachers are subjected to on a daily basis. The ongoing work of these organizations is crucial in fostering the development and wellbeing of our Nation's children.

Each day, parents send their children to school with the assumption that their children will spend the day in a safe environment. Many parents do not realize that their children's classrooms could be the very thing that harms them. Alarming, over half of our Nation's schools reported that they had at least one environmental hazard. These pollutants can have serious effects on health, such as respiratory problems, and can even interfere with cognitive functioning. Furthermore, children are more vulnerable to environmental hazards as they proportionally breathe in more air than adults.

It is not surprising then that approximately 1 out of 13 school-age children has asthma, which is responsible for more than 14 million missed school days each year as the poor indoor air quality in these schools exacerbates the effects of asthma. However, a recent study sponsored by the American Lung Association and the American Federation of Teachers estimates that a shift from an unhealthy to a healthy school would result in a 25 percent reduction in cases of asthma among students.

It is imperative that we address these problems. That is why I was the proud sponsor of the Healthy, High-Performance Schools Program in the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). By incorporating this legislation into NCLB, Congress acknowledged that environmental factors can be a barrier to academic success.

We must spread awareness of the health and learning effects that result from unhealthy schools and continue to fight on our children's behalf. I com-

mend those across the nation who are using National Healthy Schools Day to do just that.

SENATE RESOLUTION 177—DESIGNATING APRIL 30, 2007, AS "DÍA DE LOS NIÑOS: CELEBRATING YOUNG AMERICANS", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 177

Whereas many nations throughout the world, and especially within the Western hemisphere, celebrate "Día de los Niños", or "Day of the Children" on the 30th of April, in recognition and celebration of their country's future—their children;

Whereas children represent the hopes and dreams of the people of the United States;

Whereas children are the center of American families;

Whereas children should be nurtured and invested in to preserve and enhance economic prosperity, democracy, and the American spirit;

Whereas Hispanics in the United States, the youngest and fastest growing ethnic community in the Nation, continue the tradition of honoring their children on this day, and wish to share this custom with the rest of the Nation;

Whereas it is projected that by the year 2050, 1 in 4 Americans will be of Hispanic descent, and currently approximately 12,300,000 Hispanic children live in the United States;

Whereas traditional Hispanic family life centers largely on children;

Whereas the primary teachers of family values, morality, and culture are parents and family members, and we rely on children to pass on these family values, morals, and culture to future generations;

Whereas more than 500,000 children drop out of school each year, 138,000 of whom are Hispanic, and these dropout rates are unacceptably high;

Whereas the importance of literacy and education are most often communicated to children through family members;

Whereas families should be encouraged to engage in family and community activities that include extended and elderly family members and encourage children to explore, develop confidence, and pursue their dreams;

Whereas the designation of a day to honor the children of the United States will help affirm for the people of the United States the significance of family, education, and community;

Whereas the designation of a day of special recognition for the children of the United States will provide an opportunity for children to reflect on their future, to articulate their dreams and aspirations, and to find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities;

Whereas the National Latino Children's Institute, serving as a voice for children, has worked with cities throughout the country to declare April 30 as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans"—a day to bring together Hispanics and other communities nationwide to celebrate and uplift children; and

Whereas the children of a nation are the responsibility of all its people, and people should be encouraged to celebrate the gifts of children to society—their curiosity, laughter, faith, energy, spirit, hopes, and dreams: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 30, 2007, as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans"; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and States across the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies, including activities that—

(A) center around children, and are free or minimal in cost so as to encourage and facilitate the participation of all our people;

(B) are positive and uplifting and that help children express their hopes and dreams;

(C) provide opportunities for children of all backgrounds to learn about one another's cultures and to share ideas;

(D) include all members of the family, especially extended and elderly family members, so as to promote greater communication among the generations within a family, enabling children to appreciate and benefit from the experiences and wisdom of their elderly family members;

(E) provide opportunities for families within a community to get acquainted; and

(F) provide children with the support they need to develop skills and confidence, and to find the inner strength—the will and fire of the human spirit—to make their dreams come true.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce an important resolution designating the 30th day of April 2007 as "Día de los Niños: Celebrating Young Americans."

Nations throughout the world, and especially within Latin America, celebrate Día de los Niños on the 30th of April, in recognition and celebration of their countries' future—their children. Many American Hispanic families continue the tradition of honoring their children on this day by celebrating Día de los Niños in their homes.

The designation of a day to honor the children of the Nation will help us affirm the significance of family, education, and community. This special recognition of children will provide us with an opportunity to reflect on their futures, articulate their dreams and aspirations, and find comfort and security in the support of their family members and communities. This resolution calls on the American people to join with all children, families, organizations, communities, churches, cities, and states across the Nation to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. In the past years in my state of Utah, there have been a number of events and special programs for Día de los Niños in schools, libraries, cultural centers, and even hospitals.

Joining me as original cosponsors to this Resolution are MEL MARTINEZ, JEFF BINGAMAN, KEN SALAZAR, ROBERT MENENDEZ, and BARBARA BOXER.

I urge my colleagues to join us in passing this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 982. Mr. ALLARD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1082, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.