

“Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Greenland Turbot in the Aleutian Islands Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area” (RIN0648-XP60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2080. A communication from the Chief of the Policy and Rules Division, Office of Engineering and Technology, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band, Consolidating the 800 and 900 MHz Industrial/Land Transportation and Business Pool Channels” ((WT Docket No. 02-55)(FCC09-49)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2081. A communication from the Acting Division Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Jurisdictional Separations and Referral to the Federal-State Joint Board” ((CC Docket No. 50-286)(FCC09-44)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2082. A communication from the Acting Division Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Local Number Portability Porting Interval and Validation Requirements; Telephone Number Portability” ((WC Docket No. 07-244)(FCC09-41)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2083. A communication from the Chief of the Endangered Species Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*)” (RIN1018-AV23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 17, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2084. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Federal & State Materials & Environmental Management, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks; Standardized NUHOMS System Revision 10” (RIN3150-A162) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 22, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2085. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “A National Assessment of Demand Response Potential”; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2086. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Home Affordable Modification Program” (Rev. Rul. 2009-19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2087. A communication from the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Twenty-Fourth Actuarial Valuation of the Assets and Liabilities Under the Railroad Retirement Acts as of December 31, 2007”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2088. A communication from the Inspector General, General Services Adminis-

tration, Department of Defense and National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-Annual Report of the Inspector General for the 6-month period ending March 31, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2089. A communication from the Administrator of Policy Development and Research, Employment Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Temporary Employment of H-2A Aliens in the United States” (RIN1205-AB55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2009; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2090. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Suspension of the Primary Season for Pacific Whiting Fishery for the Shore Based Sector South of 42 Degree N. Lat.” (RIN0648-XP43)(Docket No. 090428799-9802-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2009; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled “Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals From the Concurrent Resolution, Fiscal Year 2010” (Rept. No. 111-32).

By Mr. KERRY, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with amendments:

S. 962. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to promote an enhanced strategic partnership with Pakistan and its people, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 111-33).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1321. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for property labeled under the Environmental Protection Agency Water Sense program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. AKAKA):

S. 1322. A bill to provide for the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in Lake County, Illinois, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. ENSIGN):

S. 1323. A bill to rescind ARRA funds rejected by State Governors and local governments and return them to the Treasury to reduce the national debt to be inherited by future generations; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. DEMINT:

S. 1324. A bill to ensure that every American has a health insurance plan that they can afford, own, and keep; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 1325. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend and modify the section 45 credit for refined coal

from steel industry fuel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAYH (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. VITTER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOND, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. NELSON of Nebraska):

S. 1326. A bill to amend the American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009 to clarify the low-income housing credits that are eligible for the low-income housing grant election, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1327. A bill to reauthorize the public and Indian housing drug elimination program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 1328. A bill to provide for the exchange of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land between the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1329. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to State courts to develop and implement State courts interpreter programs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 1330. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to increase the payment rate for certain payments under the milk income loss contract program as an emergency measure; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 1331. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to index for inflation the payment rate for payments under the milk income loss contract program; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 200. A resolution designating September 12, 2009, as “National Childhood Cancer Awareness Day”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. Res. 201. A resolution recognizing and honoring the tenth anniversary of the United States Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999); considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Con. Res. 30. A concurrent resolution commending the Bureau of Labor Statistics on the occasion of its 125th anniversary; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 144

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 144, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to remove cell phones

from listed property under section 280F.

S. 229

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 229, a bill to empower women in Afghanistan, and for other purposes.

S. 254

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 254, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home infusion therapy under the Medicare Program.

S. 369

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 369, a bill to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market.

S. 461

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 461, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 482

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 482, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 571

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 571, a bill to strengthen the Nation's research efforts to identify the causes and cure of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, expand psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis data collection, and study access to and quality of care for people with psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis, and for other purposes.

S. 597

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 597, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand and improve health care services available to women veterans, especially those serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 607

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 607, a bill to amend the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 to clarify the au-

thority of the Secretary of Agriculture regarding additional recreational uses of National Forest System land that are subject to ski area permits, and for other purposes.

S. 628

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 628, a bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities.

S. 653

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) were added as cosponsors of S. 653, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner, and for other purposes.

S. 685

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 685, a bill to require new vessels for carrying oil fuel to have double hulls, and for other purposes.

S. 690

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 690, a bill to amend the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to reauthorize the Act.

S. 705

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 705, a bill to reauthorize the programs of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and for other purposes.

S. 772

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 772, a bill to enhance benefits for survivors of certain former members of the Armed Forces with a history of post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury, to enhance availability and access to mental health counseling for members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 795

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 795, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

S. 797

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cospon-

sor of S. 797, a bill to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act, the Indian Tribal Justice Act, the Indian Tribal Justice Technical and Legal Assistance Act of 2000, and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to improve the prosecution of, and response to, crimes in Indian country, and for other purposes.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 812, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the special rule for contributions of qualified conservation contributions.

S. 827

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 827, a bill to establish a program to reunite bondholders with matured unredeemed United States savings bonds.

S. 833

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 833, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to permit States the option to provide Medicaid coverage for low-income individuals infected with HIV.

S. 848

At the request of Mrs. MCCASKILL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 848, a bill to recognize and clarify the authority of the States to regulate intrastate helicopter medical services, and for other purposes.

S. 879

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 879, a bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide immunity for reports of suspected terrorist activity or suspicious behavior and response.

S. 883

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) were added as cosponsors of S. 883, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the Medal of Honor in 1861, America's highest award for valor in action against an enemy force which can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States, to honor the American military men and women who have been recipients of the Medal of Honor, and to promote awareness of what the Medal of Honor represents and how ordinary Americans, through courage, sacrifice, selfless service and patriotism, can challenge fate and change the course of history.

S. 979

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 979, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a nationwide health insurance purchasing pool for small businesses and the self-employed that would offer a choice of private health plans and make health coverage more affordable, predictable, and accessible.

S. 990

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 990, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to expand access to healthy afterschool meals for school children in working families.

S. 1023

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1023, a bill to establish a non-profit corporation to communicate United States entry policies and otherwise promote leisure, business, and scholarly travel to the United States.

S. 1026

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1026, a bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve procedures for the collection and delivery of marked absentee ballots of absent overseas uniformed service voters, and for other purposes.

S. 1067

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1067, a bill to support stabilization and lasting peace in northern Uganda and areas affected by the Lord's Resistance Army through development of a regional strategy to support multilateral efforts to successfully protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army and to authorize funds for humanitarian relief and reconstruction, reconciliation, and transitional justice, and for other purposes.

S. 1156

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1156, a bill to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to reauthorize and improve the safe routes to school program.

S. 1177

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1177, a bill to improve consumer protections for purchasers of long-term care insurance, and for other purposes.

S. 1181

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 1181, a bill to provide for a demonstration project to examine whether community-level public health interventions can result in lower rates of chronic disease for individuals entering the Medicare program.

S. 1214

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1214, a bill to conserve fish and aquatic communities in the United States through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, to improve the quality of life for the people of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1221

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1221, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more appropriate payment amounts for drugs and biologicals under part B of the Medicare Program by excluding customary prompt pay discounts extended to wholesalers from the manufacturer's average sales price.

S. 1233

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1233, a bill to reauthorize and improve the SBIR and STTR programs and for other purposes.

S. 1261

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1261, a bill to repeal title II of the REAL ID Act of 2005 and amend title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to better protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of personally identifiable information collected by States when issuing driver's licenses and identification documents, and for other purposes.

S. 1265

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1265, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide members of the Armed Forces and their family members equal access to voter registration assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1267

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1267, a bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to provide grants to establish or expand quality programs providing home visitation for low-income pregnant women and low-income families with young children, and for other purposes.

S. 1278

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1278, a bill to establish the Consumers Choice Health Plan, a pub-

lic health insurance plan that provides an affordable and accountable health insurance option for consumers.

S. 1279

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1279, a bill to amend the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 to extend the Rural Community Hospital Demonstration Program.

S. 1304

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1304, a bill to restore the economic rights of automobile dealers, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 17

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 17, a joint resolution approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 17, supra.

S. CON. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 25, a concurrent resolution recognizing the value and benefits that community health centers provide as health care homes for over 18,000,000 individuals, and the importance of enabling health centers and other safety net providers to continue to offer accessible, affordable, and continuous care to their current patients and to every American who lacks access to preventive and primary care services.

S. CON. RES. 28

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 28, a concurrent resolution supporting the goals of Smart Irrigation Month, which recognizes the advances in irrigation technology and practices that help raise healthy plants and increase crop yields while using water resources more efficiently and encourages the adoption of smart irrigation practices throughout the United States to further improve water-use efficiency in agricultural, residential, and commercial activities.

S. RES. 161

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr.

BENNETT), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 161, a resolution recognizing June 2009 as the first National Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT) month, established to increase awareness of HHT, which is a complex genetic blood vessel disorder that affects approximately 70,000 people in the United States.

S. RES. 199

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 199, a resolution recognizing the contributions of the recreational boating community and the boating industry to the continuing prosperity of the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1321. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for property labeled under the Environmental Protection Agency Water Sense program; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, there is an old saying that "you don't know what you've got until it's gone." It is true, especially when you are talking about water. We have a tendency to take water for granted when we turn on our faucets or showers and when we want to water our yards. We tend to use it inefficiently. We let the faucet run when we are brushing our teeth, or we water our lawns in the middle of the day when evaporation rates are at their highest.

When you grow up in the desert, as I did, you learn to treasure water. Everything in the West is shaped by it, and you know that it might not always be there when you need it. This will become—particularly in my part of the country, but also in the Presiding Officer's State as well—more apparent as we see lower snowpack and decreasing precipitation in the Southwest. Because of climate change dynamics and drought cycles, we are already experiencing those situations.

Water is the lifeblood of the West. Recent droughts in the Southeast of our country remind us that no one is immune from water shortages. It is with an eye to those experiences that I rise today to introduce legislation that would take a measured and practical step toward conserving it.

The Water Accountability Tax Efficiency Reinvestment Act of 2009—that is a mouthful, but if you boil it down to its acronym, it is the WATER Act—creates a tax incentive for individuals and businesses to purchase products and services that use water at least 20

percent more efficiently than comparable technology.

It is very similar to the existing tax credit we receive now for purchasing energy-efficient Energy Star products. Certainly, you see Energy Star products all over homes, and increasingly customers are purchasing them.

I thank my friend and colleague in the House of Representatives, Congressman MIKE COFFMAN, for introducing this measure in the House. I am pleased to work with him in a bipartisan way, as he is a Republican, and in a bicameral way.

I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this bill. Why? The more we can conserve today, the more we can decrease the demands on existing water resources. Better yet, we can save our constituents and ourselves literally hundreds of dollars in the process.

What would the WATER Act do? It would create a 30-percent tax credit on the purchase of products that have earned the EPA's WaterSense label, with a maximum lifetime cap of \$1,500. That is a handsome incentive for us as consumers.

Like the Energy Star label awarded by the EPA and Department of Energy, the WaterSense label would be reserved for those products that consume at least 20 percent less water than comparable items. These products are becoming much more common. They include many brands of faucets, toilets, shower heads, even irrigation services.

The predictions are that soon entire homes would become WaterSense certified.

Not only is it a bonus for the environment when we conserve water, but it is helpful to our wallets. The cheapest gallon of water, frankly, like the cheapest barrel of oil, is the one we don't use.

It is estimated by the EPA that with some simple adjustments in the way we use water, the average household can save close to \$200 a year on their water and sewer bills.

There is an interesting nexus as well between energy and water use. If we conserve energy water, we use less energy. Less water means less energy to heat the water in our showers, our sinks, our dishwashers, and the energy that is used to supply and treat public water. EPA estimates if 1 percent of American households used WaterSense-certified toilets, each year we could save enough electricity to power 43,000 homes for a month, lower water bills, and reduce demands on the environment. That is something we ought to be striving to accomplish.

Numerous groups already support this legislation as it is written. I focus in particular on my home State of Colorado where industry groups, water authorities, and local leaders in Colorado have signed on to this concept.

I wanted to also say that moving forward on this legislation gained added importance for me last month when I attended a briefing that the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research

held. This particular briefing was focused on the ways we will have to adapt our management of water resources in response to the effects of climate change. I know the Presiding Officer and I share a real concern about climate change.

I used to think any discussion of adapting to climate change was misguided because we were giving in to the problem. We were saying we are going to let climate change occur. I have come to believe adapting to climate change is a recognition of reality. It is having impacts all across our country. If we do not act now, we will not be meeting our responsibilities to not only our constituents today but our children and their children in the future.

In my State, all you have to do is look, for example, at the Colorado River. Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, California, Nevada, and the country of Mexico have an agreement that was reached about 80 years ago on how to divide up the Colorado River. When that agreement was reached, I believe, in 1922, we thought there were 16.5 million acre feet of water we could divide among all those States and communities. We now believe that time period, when we took those numbers interest account, was a particularly wet period in the history of the Colorado River Basin. Our best guess now is there is only about 14.5 million acre feet available, and 16.5 million versus 14.5 million—there is a 2-million-acre-foot deficit there, and it is causing increasing concern.

So these water shortages that are possible because of climate change, combined with drought cycles that are normal, have the potential to cause great political tension and controversy. The river levels in the Colorado basin most likely are going to get lower, and that means serious impacts for businesses, homes, and farmers in seven States and two counties. The longer we wait to take practical steps to adjust the steps of climate change, the harder it will become to deal with them.

The good news is we have options that will do more than help address global climate change. These are policies we ought to be adopting anyway. They simply have added significance now, and they make perfect common sense.

To return to the Water Act, which I came to the Senate floor to discuss, this is a prime example of how we can adapt and take some steps today that benefit all of us. If consumers in the Colorado River Basin install WaterSense products, they will decrease the demand on the overallocated Colorado River Basin, reduce their water and energy bills, and help head off an impending problem as a result of climate change. This is a win-win-win across the board.