

(1) an analysis of the progress made toward achieving the goals and objectives of the plan outlined in section 4;

(2) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the system;

(3) recommendations concerning modifications to the system;

(4) an analysis of the consistency of reported greenhouse gas emission reductions with independent observations of atmospheric and Earth-system trends; and

(5) an update on changes or trends in Earth-system sources and sinks of greenhouse gases.

SEC. 6. AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may enter into and perform such contracts, leases, grants, cooperative agreements, or other agreements as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(b) SPECIFIC AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator may—

(1) enter into long-term leases of up to 20 years for the use of unimproved land to site small shelter facilities, antennae, and equipment including weather, tide, tidal currents, river, and air sampling or measuring equipment;

(2) enter into long-term licenses of up to 20 years at no cost to site facilities and equipment including weather, tide, tidal currents, river, and air sampling or measuring equipment;

(3) acquire (by purchase, lease, or otherwise), lease, sell, and dispose of or convey services, money, securities, or property (whether real, personal, intellectual, or of any other kind) or an interest therein;

(4) construct, improve, repair, operate, maintain, outgrant, and dispose of real or personal property, including buildings, facilities, and land; and

(5) waive capital lease scoring requirements for any lease of space on commercial antennas to support weather radio equipment, air sampling, or measuring equipment.

(c) CERTAIN LEASED EQUIPMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule, or regulation, leases of antenna or equipment on towers or other structures shall be considered operating leases for the purpose of capital lease scoring.

SEC. 7. EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to supersede or alter the existing authorities of any Federal agency with respect to Earth science research or greenhouse gas mitigation.

SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(2) EARTH-SYSTEM.—The term “Earth-system” means the Earth’s biosphere, including the ocean, atmosphere, and soils that influence the amounts of greenhouse gas in the atmosphere.

(3) GREENHOUSE GAS.—The term “greenhouse gas” means a gas in the atmosphere that increases the radiative forcing of the Earth-atmosphere system.

(4) INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF UNITS.—The term “International System of Units” means the modern metric system of units established in 1960 by the 11th General Conference on Weight and Measures.

(5) RADIATIVE FORCING.—The term “radiative forcing” means the measure of the influence that a substance or process has in altering the balance of incoming and outgoing energy in the Earth-system.

(6) SINK.—The term “sink” means the removal of a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere.

(7) SOURCE.—The term “source” means the emission of a greenhouse gas into the atmosphere.

(8) SYSTEM.—The term “system” means the national greenhouse gas observation and analysis system established under section 3.

(9) TRACER.—The term “tracer” means an atmospheric substance that can be used to assess or determine the origin of a greenhouse gas.

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce such sums as appropriate to carry out this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 226—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2009 AS “GOSPEL MUSIC HERITAGE MONTH” AND HONORING GOSPEL MUSIC FOR ITS VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CULTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Mrs. HUTCHISON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 226

Whereas gospel music is a beloved art form of the United States;

Whereas gospel music is a cornerstone of the musical traditions of the United States and has spread beyond origins in African-American spirituals to achieve popular cultural and historical relevance;

Whereas gospel music has spread beyond geographic origins in the United States to touch audiences around the world; and

Whereas gospel music is a testament to the universal appeal of a historical art form of the United States that both inspires and entertains across racial, ethnic, religious, and geographical boundaries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2009 as “Gospel Music Heritage Month”; and

(2) recognizes the valuable contributions to the culture of the United States derived from the rich heritage of gospel music and gospel music artists.

SENATE RESOLUTION 227—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2009 AS “TAY-SACHS AWARENESS MONTH”

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

S. RES. 227

Whereas Tay-Sachs disease is a rare, genetic disorder that causes destruction of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord due to the poor functioning of an enzyme called hexosaminidase A;

Whereas there is no proven treatment or cure for Tay-Sachs disease and the disease is always fatal in children;

Whereas the disorder was named after Warren Tay, an ophthalmologist from the United Kingdom, and Bernard Sachs, a neurologist from the United States, both of whom contributed to the discovery of the disease in the 1880s;

Whereas Tay-Sachs disease often affects families with no prior history of the disease;

Whereas approximately 1 in 27 Ashkenazi Jews, 1 in 30 Louisianan Cajuns, 1 in 30 French Canadians, 1 in 50 Irish Americans,

and 1 in every 250 people are carriers of Tay-Sachs disease, which means approximately 1,500,000 people in the United States are carriers;

Whereas unaffected carriers of the disease possess the recessive gene that can trigger the disease in future generations;

Whereas, if both parents of a child are carriers of Tay-Sachs disease, there is a 1 in 4 chance that the child will develop Tay-Sachs disease;

Whereas a simple and inexpensive blood test can determine if an individual is a carrier of Tay-Sachs disease, and all people in the United States, especially those people who are members of high-risk populations, should be screened; and

Whereas raising awareness of Tay-Sachs disease is the best way to fight this horrific disease: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 2009 as “Tay-Sachs Awareness Month”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 228—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 14, 2009, AS “NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK”

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BUNNING, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DODD, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 228

Whereas direct support workers, direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals (referred to in this preamble as “direct support professionals”) are the primary providers of publicly funded long term support and services for millions of individuals;

Whereas a direct support professional must build a close, trusted relationship with an individual with disabilities;

Whereas a direct support professional assists an individual with disabilities with the most intimate needs, on a daily basis;

Whereas direct support professionals provide a broad range of support, including—

- (1) preparation of meals;
- (2) helping with medications;
- (3) bathing;
- (4) dressing;
- (5) mobility;
- (6) getting to school, work, religious, and recreational activities; and
- (7) general daily affairs;

Whereas a direct support professional provides essential support to help keep an individual with disabilities connected to the family and community of the individual;

Whereas direct support professionals enable individuals with disabilities to live meaningful, productive lives;

Whereas direct support professionals are the key to allowing an individual with disabilities to live successfully in the community of the individual, and to avoid more costly institutional care;

Whereas the majority of direct support professionals are female, and many are the sole breadwinners of their families;

Whereas direct support professionals work and pay taxes, but many remain impoverished and are eligible for the same Federal and State public assistance programs on which the individuals with disabilities served by the direct support professionals must depend;