

power plant, and that is exactly why now is the time to pass this law. Once utilities make a huge investment in siting, licensing, and building new plants, the pressure upon Congress to provide a waste-disposal option for them becomes immense. Unfortunately, if Congress acts under such pressure, it might not come up with the best resolution. Let's ensure that for future plants, we deal with the waste issue in a deliberate way, free from pressure applied by utilities with vested interests.

I want to make this point crystal clear: this bill would not impact any existing plants. It would apply only to plants that would be constructed after the date of enactment. It would, therefore, not apply to renewal of existing licenses.

Here is the current commercial high-level nuclear waste situation in a nutshell: we have DOE, by Congressional mandate, putting all of its eggs in the Yucca Mountain basket. Even when Yucca Mountain is on-line—if ever—it will be able to hold only the waste that has been and will be generated by our current generation of reactors.

Where will the waste from a new generation of reactors be disposed of? This bill requires that we answer this question before that second generation is born.

This bill does not judge the deep geologic repository approach that the DOE is currently pursuing. Nor does it make any mention of a monitored retrievable storage facility. It only says that we ought to always have enough permanent storage capacity to take care of the waste that will be generated by a new nuclear power plant.

It is not enough to have a plan for adequate storage. It is also not enough to have begun construction on a storage facility. It is not even enough to have finished building but not yet licensed a storage facility. The permanent storage facility must be sited, built, and licensed for operation before construction may begin on a new plant under this bill.

The bill is written that way because of the huge difference between the planning and building of a waste facility on the one hand, and its actually accepting waste on the other. With politically charged issues like nuclear waste, it is wise to make absolutely certain that there is water in the pool before jumping in, rather than just turning on the spigot, taking a deep breath, and diving.

I urge Senators to support this important legislation. It is time to use a little common sense.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 473

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 "Nuclear Energy Policy Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) a national energy policy that allows the construction and operation of new civilian nuclear power reactors may serve to aggravate the problem of management of high-level nuclear waste including spent nuclear fuel from the reactors;

(2) the creation of the nuclear waste has a direct effect on the amount of nuclear waste transported in interstate commerce; and

(3) it is not in the public interest, and it should not be the policy of the United States, to allow the construction or operation in the United States of any additional civilian nuclear power reactor unless a facility for the permanent emplacement of the waste exists with enough capacity for the waste that the reactor is reasonably expected to generate in its lifetime.

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to ensure that the United States does not aggravate the nuclear waste problem by permitting the creation of a new generation of civilian nuclear power reactors without adequate capacity in a permanent waste emplacement facility by establishing as the nuclear energy policy of the United States that no new civilian nuclear power reactor shall be built until adequate waste emplacement capacity is available.

SEC. 4. NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) ADEQUATE EMPLACEMENT FACILITY.—No civilian nuclear power reactor shall be built after the date of enactment of this Act until—

(1) there is a facility licensed by the United States for the permanent emplacement of high-level radioactive waste (including spent nuclear fuel) from the reactor; and

(2) there is an adequate volume of capacity within the emplacement facility to accept all of the high-level radioactive waste (including spent nuclear fuel) that will be generated by the reactor during the reasonably foreseeable operational lifetime of the reactor.

(b) GENERATION OF SPENT FUEL.—At no time shall the aggregate volume of high-level radioactive waste (including spent nuclear fuel) that is generated, or reasonably expected to be generated, by all civilian power reactors on which federally authorized construction was begun after the date of enactment of this Act exceed the total volume of capacity available in facilities licensed by the United States for the permanent emplacement of the high-level radioactive waste (including spent nuclear fuel).

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT.

Any affected citizen may enforce this Act by bringing a civil action in the United States district court for the district in which the person resides or in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.●

By Mr. MACK (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 474. A bill to provide a veterans bill of rights; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

THE VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 1995

● Mr. MACK. Mr. President, today my colleague from Florida, Senator BOB GRAHAM, and I are introducing legislation to ensure that all veterans have access to the same care and benefits provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, religion, age, or geographic location.

Under the Veterans Bill of Rights Act, veterans in all States will have equal access to such services as VA medical facilities, treatment, and personnel; VA home loan guaranty assistance, job training assistance, the administrative claims process, and equal treatment in the handling of claims for benefits.

While equal access to these essential veterans benefits and services is implied, in reality, it is not always the case. My home State of Florida, for example, has the most 100 percent service-connected disabled veterans in the United States. It is also home to the second largest overall veterans population. Consequently, the demand for services from the Department of Veterans Affairs is far greater than other States. Florida's veterans population, however, has far less access to medical care and other benefits than nearly every other State. In fact, veterans in Florida are forced to wait months for appointments at VA medical centers and outpatient clinics while veterans in other States have no waiting lines. That's wrong, and it must be changed.

Our Government made a contract with the men and women who bravely served our country in times of need. The contract guaranteed that the Federal Government would provide for them in return for their service. Many who honored this contract were injured or disabled. The Federal Government must live up to its' end of the contract by providing equitable treatment regardless of where the veteran lives.

Veterans in many States, like those who reside and vacation in Florida, do not receive their fair share of benefits. The Veterans Bill of Rights corrects this inequity, and I strongly urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 474

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 "Veterans Bill of Rights Act".

SEC. 2. ADMINISTRATION OF RIGHTS AND BENEFITS.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall take any action necessary to ensure that any rights and benefits provided under title 38, United States Code, to veterans who qualify for the rights and benefits—

(1) are made available to the veterans in any one State or geographic location to the same extent as the rights and benefits are made available to the veterans in any other State or geographic location; and

(2) are not denied to any veteran on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, religion, age, or geographic location.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION.

For purposes of this Act, the term "State" has the same meaning given such term in

section 101(20) of title 38, United States Code.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 197

At the request of Mr. BUMPERS, the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. PRYOR] was added as a cosponsor of S. 197, a bill to establish the Carl Garner Federal Lands Cleanup Day, and for other purposes.

S. 216

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 216, a bill to repeal the reduction in the deductible portion of expenses for business meals and entertainment.

S. 240

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] was added as a cosponsor of S. 240, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish a filing deadline and to provide certain safeguards to ensure that the interests of investors are well protected under the implied private action provisions of the Act.

S. 256

At the request of Mr. DOLE, the name of the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG] was added as a cosponsor of S. 256, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish procedures for determining the status of certain missing members of the Armed Forces and certain civilians, and for other purposes.

S. 269

At the request of Mr. SIMPSON, the names of the Senator from Kansas [Mrs. KASSEBAUM] and the Senator from Nevada [Mr. BRYAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 269, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase control over immigration to the United States by increasing border patrol and investigator personnel; improving the verification system for employer sanctions; increasing penalties for alien smuggling and for document fraud; reforming asylum, exclusion, and deportation law and procedures; instituting a land border user fee; and to reduce use of welfare by aliens.

S. 270

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. HOLLINGS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 270, a bill to provide special procedures for the removal of alien terrorists.

S. 305

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 305, a bill to establish the Shenandoah Valley National Battlefields and Commission in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and for other purposes.

S. 426

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the names of the Senator from South Caro-

lina [Mr. HOLLINGS] and the Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBB] were added as cosponsors of S. 426, a bill to authorize the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity to establish a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr., in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the name of the Senator from Maine [Ms. SNOWE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to direct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to establish commissions to review regulations issued by certain Federal departments and agencies, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 274

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Florida [Mr. GRAHAM] and the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 274 proposed to House Joint Resolution 1, a joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN the name of the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. BUMPERS] was withdrawn as a cosponsor of amendment No. 274 proposed to House Joint Resolution 1, supra.

SENATE RESOLUTION 79—RELATIVE TO GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. D'AMATO, and Mr. SIMON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 79

Whereas, the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was invested in the people;

Whereas, the Founding Fathers of the United States of America drew heavily upon the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas, these and other ideals have forged a close bond between our two nations and their peoples;

Whereas, March 25, 1995 marks the 174th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution which freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire; and

Whereas, it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Greek people, and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which our two great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the United States of America assembled, that March 25, 1995 is designated as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy." The President is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

● Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, today I am submitting along with Senators LAUTENBERG, D'AMATO, and SIMON a resolution to designate March 25, 1995, as "Greek Independence Day: A Celebration of Greek and American Democracy."

One hundred and seventy-four years ago, the Greeks began the revolution

that would free them from the Ottoman Empire and return Greece to its democratic heritage. It was, of course, the ancient Greeks who developed the concept of democracy in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people. Our Founding Fathers drew heavily upon the political and philosophical experience of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy. Thomas Jefferson proclaimed that, "to the ancient Greeks * * * we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness." It is fitting, then, that we should recognize the anniversary of the beginning of their efforts to return to that democratic tradition.

The democratic form of government is only one of the most obvious of the many benefits we have gained from the Greek people. The ancient Greeks contributed a great deal to the modern world, particularly to the United States of America, in the areas of art, philosophy, science, and law. Today, Greek-Americans continue to enrich our culture and make valuable contributions to American society, business, and government.

It is my hope that strong support for this resolution in the Senate will serve as a clear goodwill gesture to the people of Greece with whom we have enjoyed such a close bond throughout history. Similar resolutions have been signed into law each of the past several years, with overwhelming support in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Accordingly, I urge my Senate colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution.●

SENATE RESOLUTION 80—RELATIVE TO THE FEDERAL OPEN MARKET COMMITTEE

Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. RES. 80

Whereas the Federal Open Market Committee of the Federal Reserve System has increased interest rates 7 times during the 12 months preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, despite the absence of any serious threat of inflation;

Whereas the inflation rate declined to very modest levels during the 4 years preceding the date of adoption of this resolution;

Whereas the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System maintains that the Consumer Price Index overstates the true rate of inflation by as much as 50 percent;

Whereas increases in short-term interest rates have been accompanied by increases in long-term interest rates, reversing the downward trend that helped strengthen the national economy;

Whereas such higher interest rates will have a devastating impact on the economy, including home builders, homebuyers, and homeowners;

Whereas higher interest rates will increase the Federal deficit by adding \$171,000,000,000, over 5 years, to pay the interest on the national debt;