

COATS AMENDMENT NO. 1077

Mr. COATS proposed an amendment to the bill, S. 534, supra; as follows:

On page 52, between lines 10 and 11 insert the following:

“SEC. 102. NEEDS DETERMINATION.

The Governor of a State may accept, deny or modify an application for a municipal solid waste management facility permit if—

“(1) it is done in a manner that is not inconsistent with the provisions of this section;

“(2) a State law enacted in 1990 and a regulation adopted by the Governor in 1991 specifically requires the permit applicant to demonstrate that there is a local or regional need within the State for the facility; and

“(3) the permit applicant fails to demonstrate that there is a local or regional need within the State for the facility.”

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONSUMER PRODUCTS SAFETY COMMISSION CUTBACKS A THREAT

• Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, on behalf of my colleague, Senator JOHNSTON and myself, I ask that an article printed in the New Orleans Times-Picayune be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

We found the discussion of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission very interesting and wanted to share these informative comments with our colleagues.

The article follows:

CUTBACKS TO CPSC THREATEN US ALL

Today in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is conducting a conference titled “Safety Sells.” The one-day event features business executives who will “highlight product safety as an emerging business trend.”

In a press release describing the event, the commission said executives from Toys R Us, Hasbro Inc., Proctor & Gamble Co. and Volvo “will discuss how they have improved their competitive positions by selling safety.”

In the case of Volvo, that’s certainly true. Its promotions appeal to the growing number of car buyers, who intelligently shop for safer cars, armed with Consumer Reports or the “Car Book,” by Jack Gillis.

But toys? There are no books or magazines that list the safe ones and the dangerous ones to avoid. And the steady infusion of imported toys, made in countries that do not have safety standards as rigid as ours, routinely pass undetected through customs, filling the marketplace with unsafe products for children.

We’re talking about toys with excessive amounts of lead or small parts that can choke children, bunk beds that fall apart, etc. Their existence is why a significant portion of this column is routinely given to warning readers about recalls.

Imported toys can be bought cheaply and sold at huge profits. And even if there’s a recall, the companies know that most buyers will never find out about it and, therefore, their profits will remain high.

One of our best defenses against unsafe products is the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the only federal agency that identifies and acts on a wide range of product safety hazards, from toys to bikes to household products.

Unfortunately, the current trend for “less government interference” could seriously

undermine the commission’s much-needed work if it results in additional cutbacks to this important consumer watchdog. If that were to happen, the only beneficiary would be the corporations that profit from unsafe products.

During the Reagan administration, the commission’s budget and staff were cut in half. Then, as now, it operates on a \$42-million annual budget—not much for a major federal agency that addresses the hazards in our lives. Consider these facts from the commission:

Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death among people under 45 years old and is the fourth leading cause of death in the nation.

More children die from injuries than from diseases.

There are 21,700 deaths and 28.6 million injuries each year related to consumer products under commission jurisdiction.

The deaths, injuries and property damage associated with consumer products cost the nation about \$200 billion annually. Consumer product injuries account for one out of every six hospital days in this country.

The commission is the only agency addressing product safety and health hazards for more than 15,000 consumer products.

What’s more, the money used to support the commission gives an excellent return. Every dangerous product removed from the marketplace prevents an increase in the national health care bill.

On the local level, I have nothing but high praises for Sonny Sturdivant and Sidney Englander, the CPSC field inspectors, who are invaluable sources of help for this column and to the residents in this area.

If potential cutbacks to the commission worry you, as it does me, you may want to contact your representatives in Washington and let your feelings be known. •

COMMEMORATING THE 47TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL’S INDEPENDENCE

• Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to mark a joyous event, the founding of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948. From its near-miraculous beginnings as a country born in strife, Israel enters its 48th year a prosperous and vigorous democracy.

With the hyperinflation of the 1980’s a distant memory, Israel enjoys stable economic growth with moderate inflation. Israel’s economic problems are now the challenges of any developed country—generating and distributing wealth. As the circle of peace in the region expands, Israel will find itself well-placed to be a major regional economic power.

Israel has renewed itself as the homeland of the Jewish people by successfully managing its latest “*aliyah*,” the absorption of Jews from the Soviet Union and its successor states. Both the infusion of new blood, and the national effort to welcome and absorb over half a million new citizens has reinvigorated the nation, while educating a new generation on the special responsibilities and benefits of life in Israel.

Among the greatest of those responsibilities and benefits is the nurturing of a democracy that is the envy, not only of the Middle East, but of the

world. To an extent perhaps matched only by the United States, Israel has welded diverse peoples into a democratic society. Israel understands the lesson so eloquently taught by former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek that democracy is more than elections. Democracy is a way of thinking, a way of acting and, most of all, a way of treating one’s neighbor. The world has much to learn from Israel’s successful experiment in representative democracy in an often harsh environment.

Israel marks its 47th birthday closer to lasting peace than ever before. As a result of the warm peace with Jordan, Israelis are finally visiting the legendary red rocks at Petra. As a result of the multilateral peace negotiations, Israel is normalizing relations with Arab states in North Africa and the Persian Gulf.

Israel is also inching closer to peace with its Palestinian and Syrian neighbors. However, as Israelis above all peoples understand, peace never comes cheaply, and Israel is facing a historic challenge as it tries to conclude genuine peace in the face of terrorism.

All of us grieve with Israel every time another terrorist atrocity is perpetrated. All of us pray with Israel that the leaders and peoples of the Middle East, and those of us who support them, will find the wisdom to steer a path through the shoals of violence to a lasting peace.

The United States Government and individual Americans have an important role to play in supporting Israel, its people, and its leadership, in making the hard decisions necessary for peace. I am proud of the record of the United States Senate in providing unstinting support of Israel, and I will be proud to continue that record.

I am particularly proud of the contributions of citizens of my own State of New Jersey to Israel’s development. These are people like Miles Lerman, active in fundraising and philanthropy for Israel, and the man most responsible for the Holocaust Museum in Washington, who form the unshakable foundation of America’s unwavering support for Israel.

Israel today is 47 years strong. I know I speak for the people of New Jersey, and the United States, when I wish her peace and continued prosperity. •

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CHAFEE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.