

the resources to absorb those requirements. Nor should it.

In addition to overburdening Federal agencies, S. 343, as currently written, would roll back some of the most important laws that protect our environment, our health, and our safety.

For the first time in my lifetime, we are contemplating a comprehensive retreat from the progress achieved in reducing air pollution, in cleaning up our rivers and lakes, in taking steps to ensure that the food we eat and the water we drink is safe and clean. In the past, this effort has been embraced by leaders Republican and Democratic. Whether it was President Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, or President Clinton, this Nation has realized great benefits from an extraordinary bipartisan commitment on these matters.

Mr. President, last year 2-year-old Cullen Mack of my home State of South Dakota fell ill from eating beef contaminated with the E. coli bacteria. As a result of experiences like Cullen's, I held a number of hearings in the Agriculture Committee and the Department of Agriculture developed regulations which would help prevent recurrences of this problem. The rules would modernize the meat inspection process, using sensitive scientific techniques to detect contamination and prevent spoiled meat from making its way into our food supply.

This much-awaited rule will be held up by this bill. It will be delayed and perhaps even stopped. That is unacceptable and represents one of the problems with this bill in its current form.

In its attempt to reform the regulatory process, the bill overreaches—I believe, to the long-term detriment to the American people, including businesses. In South Dakota as in many other States, not only will the public benefit from tough new meat inspection rules, but so will the farmers and ranchers who raise the livestock and who benefit from the assurance that their products will reach the market in the best condition possible. The Senate should not support a process that would compromise that objective.

I want to make clear that I'm not suggesting that somehow the proponents of S. 343 are advocating the degradation of our environment, or have set out to contaminate our drinking water, or that they are unconcerned with a child's potential exposure to toxins. But passage of this bill will make those results more likely. And that is not a result that I can endorse.

I know that some of my colleagues will be taking the floor to make that case in detail, and to offer amendments which will attempt to ameliorate the most harmful provisions of the bill. And I know that some of my democratic colleagues have signed onto S. 343.

I also want to make it clear that there is a better alternative and that a number of amendments will be offered

which will improve the bill and which I hope all Members will give their serious consideration.

The comprehensive alternative will produce commonsense reform without wholesale harm. I am hopeful that after some healthy debate on this matter, and in light of the amendment process that will begin today, my colleagues can be persuaded to support our amendments and the alternative developed by Senators GLENN and CHAFFEE, should it be offered. That is the best, most defensible path to regulatory reform, because it does not sacrifice the environmental, health, and safety standards that American families have a right to expect and demand from their Government.

Mr. President, I can state with some confidence that no Member of this body will argue for a regulatory status quo. No Member of this body believes that every Federal rule is sacred. No Member will defend every law we've passed as perfect in its real-world application. There are too many regulations in general, and, in particular, too many that make no sense.

It is my strong hope that during this debate, we can come to agreement on a bipartisan regulatory reform bill that achieves serious, meaningful change, but does so recognizing the budgetary realities facing the Federal Government, recognizing the desire to prevent unnecessary and expensive litigation, and recognizing the fundamental importance of ensuring that Federal agencies should be able to issue those commonsense regulations which protect public health and safety, the environment, and other matters that most of us agree should be the subject of responsible Federal oversight.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NOS. 104-12 AND 104-13

Mr. HATCH. As in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the Investment Treaty with Latvia (Treaty Document No. 104-12) and the Investment Treaty with Georgia (Treaty Document No. 104-13) transmitted to the Senate by the President on July 10, 1995; and the treaties considered as having been read the first time; referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and ordered that the President's messages be printed in the RECORD.

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

The messages of the President are as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Latvia Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, with Annex and Protocol, signed at Washington on January 13, 1995. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to this Treaty.

The bilateral investment Treaty (BIT) with Latvia will protect U.S. investors and assist Latvia in its efforts to develop its economy by creating conditions more favorable for U.S. private investment and thus strengthening the development of the private sector.

The Treaty is fully consistent with U.S. policy toward international and domestic investment. A specific tenet of U.S. policy, reflected in this Treaty, is that U.S. investment abroad and foreign investment in the United States should receive national treatment. Under this Treaty, the Parties also agree to international law standards for expropriation and compensation for expropriation; free transfer of funds associated with investments; freedom of investments from performance requirements; fair, equitable, and most-favored-nation treatment; and the investor's or investment's freedom to choose to resolve disputes with the host government through international arbitration.

I recommend that the Senate consider this Treaty as soon as possible, and give its advice and consent to ratification of the Treaty, with Annex and Protocol, at an early date.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 10, 1995.

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Georgia Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, with Annex, signed at Washington on March 7, 1994. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State with respect to this Treaty.

The bilateral investment Treaty (BIT) with Georgia was the eighth such treaty between the United States and a newly independent state of the former Soviet Union. The Treaty is designed to protect U.S. investment and assist the Republic of Georgia in its efforts to develop its economy by creating conditions more favorable for U.S. private investment and thus strengthen the development of its private sector.