

and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The spirit of bipartisanship is best exemplified by the list of my colleagues joining me in this effort, including Senator HEFLIN, Senator PRYOR, Senator MCCONNELL, Senator CONRAD, Senator COVERDELL and Senator SANTORUM.

As members of the Agriculture Committee, their support for this commonsense legislation is essential and appreciated.

Mr. President, Congress has finally begun to recognize the severe burdens we place upon America's job creators when we impose regulatory legislation without respect to its cost or ultimate benefits.

So I am pleased that we have made significant progress this year in reforming and reducing some of that regulatory burden, and I believe this legislation takes us another step forward.

The pesticides covered by this legislation, called antimicrobial products, include common household disinfectant cleaners, bleaches, sanitizers, and disinfectants.

Antimicrobials play an important and beneficial role in controlling disease and in maintaining a high public-health standard in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, schools, hotels, restaurants, and even in our own homes.

Because emergency workers rely on antimicrobial pesticides to disinfect contaminated water supplies, they are especially valuable during times of natural disasters, such as flooding in the Midwest, hurricanes in Florida, and earthquakes in California.

Yet despite the critical role antimicrobials play in maintaining public health, and the efforts of our colleagues to develop a responsible solution, there have been significant and unintended delays on the EPA's part in approving these products for use.

Unfortunately, those delays in the registration process have stifled the ability of the industry to market new products—products which could have an even more significant impact on the public health.

I would like to share an example.

A new product which provides extraordinary effectiveness against a powerful form of bacteria was developed by an international supplier of cleaning and sanitizing products.

Not only was this new product found to be extremely effective, but it was also developed to break down rapidly once it had achieved its sanitizing work. In short, it effectively helped destroy bacteria while it reduced the likelihood of environmental damage.

While this revolutionary product had proven merits, the company could not get the product approved by the EPA for over 2 years because of the cumbersome approval process.

At the end of that 2-year period, the EPA granted its approval and agreed that this product was of great importance to public health and the environment. It's unfortunate that it has

taken so long for the Government to recognize what its manufacturer had long known.

Such examples have become commonplace. Because of this inappropriate backlog of anti-microbial applications pending within the EPA that have little or no chance of being resolved within a reasonable period of time, the need for legislative reform is clear.

Our legislation will establish process for expediting the review of anti-microbial products.

It incorporates predictability into the system without compromising public health and safety. It encourages industry and Government to work together to actually improve products which can better guarantee our public health.

In a legislative climate that is too often partisan and uncompromising, this bill is an example of how Congress, the administration and its Federal agencies, industry, and consumers can pool their efforts to achieve a common end.

Again, I thank my colleagues who have cosponsored this bill, the anti-microbial industry, user groups, and the EPA for coming together to work out the details of this bill. I urge the rest of my colleagues to join us in supporting this commonsense reform.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 607

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM] was added as a cosponsor of S. 607, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to clarify the liability of certain recycling transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 984

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Kansas [Mr. DOLE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 984, a bill to protect the fundamental right of a parent to direct the upbringing of a child, and for other purposes.

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. HATFIELD, the name of the Senator from Illinois [Mr. SIMON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1183, a bill to amend the act of March 3, 1931 (known as the Davis-Bacon Act), to revise the standards for coverage under the act, and for other purposes.

S. 1379

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1379, a bill to make technical amendments to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1386

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1386, a bill to provide for soft-metric conversion, and for other purposes.

S. 1400

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the name of the Senator from Iowa

[Mr. GRASSLEY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1400, a bill to require the Secretary of Labor to issue guidance as to the application of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to insurance company general accounts.

S. 1419

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the name of the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1419, a bill to impose sanctions against Nigeria.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. DODD] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 25, a concurrent resolution concerning the protection and continued viability of the Eastern Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

WHITEWATER SUBPOENA RESOLUTION

D'AMATO AMENDMENTS NOS. 3101-3103

Mr. D'AMATO proposed three amendments to the resolution (S. Res. 199) directing the Senate Legal Counsel to bring a civil action to enforce a subpoena of the Special Committee to Investigate Whitewater Development Corporation and Related Matters to William H. Kennedy, III; as follows:

AMENDMENT No. 3101

The first section of the resolution is amended by striking "subpoena and order" and inserting "subpoenas and orders".

AMENDMENT No. 3102

After the sixth Whereas clause in the preamble insert the following:

"Whereas on December 15, 1995, the Special Committee authorized the issuance of a second subpoena duces tecum to William H. Kennedy, III, directing him to produce the identical documents to the Special Committee by 12:00 p.m. on December 18, 1995;

"Whereas on December 18, 1995, counsel for Mr. Kennedy notified the Special Committee that, based upon the instructions of the White House Counsel's Office and personal counsel for President and Mrs. Clinton, Mr. Kennedy would not comply with the second subpoena;

"Whereas, on December 18, 1995, the chairman of the Special Committee announced that he was overruling the legal objections to the second subpoena for the same reasons as for the first subpoena, and ordered and directed that Mr. Kennedy comply with the second subpoena by 3:00 p.m. on December 18, 1995;

"Whereas Mr. Kennedy has refused to comply with the Special Committee's second subpoena as ordered and directed by the chairman;"

Amend the title so as to read: "Resolution directing the Senate Legal Counsel to bring a civil action to enforce subpoenas and orders of the Special Committee to Investigate Whitewater Development Corporation and Related Matters to William H. Kennedy, III."