

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. FORD, Mr. DOLE, Mr. LOTT, Mr. HEFLIN, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HELMS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. BURNS, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. COATS, and Mr. GRAMS):

S. 1646. A bill to authorize and facilitate a program to enhance safety, training, research and development, and safety education in the propane gas industry for the benefit of propane consumers and the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PRESSLER (for himself, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. LOTT, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KYL, and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 1647. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to provide that forest management activities shall be subject to initial judicial review only in the United States district court for the district in which the affected land is located, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. SNOWE:

S. Res. 233. A resolution to recognize and support the efforts of the United States Soccer Federation to bring the 1999 Women's World Cup tournament to the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. DOLE, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. Res. 234. A resolution relative to the death of Edmund S. Muskie; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. Res. 235. A resolution to proclaim the week of June 16 to June 22, 1996, as "National Roller Coaster Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. Con. Res. 49. A concurrent resolution providing for certain corrections to be made in the enrollment of the bill (H.R. 2854) to modify the operation of certain agricultural programs; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. FORD, Mr. DOLE, Mr. LOTT, Mr. HEFLIN, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HELMS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. BURNS, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. KASSEBAUM, Mr. COATS, and Mr. GRAMS):

S. 1646. A bill to authorize and facilitate a program to enhance safety, training; research and development, and safety education in the propane gas industry for the benefit of propane consumers and the public, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

THE PROPANE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ACT OF 1996

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today I am very happy to introduce the Pro-

pane Education and Research Act of 1996. Propane is an extremely important source of clean-burning, domestically-produced energy in the United States providing fuel for cooking, heating, and hot water in over 7.7 million homes, half of all farms, and in millions of recreational applications. Even though propane is the fourth most used fuel in America, no Federal funds are spent on propane research. My legislation keeps it that way and simply provides a mechanism that permits, not requires, industry to fund its own research and development [R&D] program for propane.

This act would allow the propane industry, composed of over 165 producers and 5,000 marketers, to vote to establish a checkoff program to fund much needed R&D modeled after the many checkoff programs already established in Federal law. Collected from the industry at an initial rate of 1/10th of 1 cent per gallon of odorized—propane destined for the retail market—propane sold, these funds would support R&D, educational, and safety activities. Propane producers and marketers, who would bear the cost of the checkoff programs, have indicated broad support for the legislation.

Propane has traditionally served rural and suburban citizens who are beyond reach of most natural gas lines. The propane industry consists of mostly small businesses that individually cannot afford the necessary R&D, safety, and educational activities that result in enormous benefits to consumers. Some of these benefits include increased efficiency in propane appliances, safer handling and distribution, and an improved environment for Americans from this clean-burning fuel. Small businesses have not historically received direct benefits from federally sponsored energy R&D. This legislation does not fit the traditional heavy-handed approach to energy research and development, but gives the propane small business community the flexibility and the framework to pursue research, safety, and education on their own.

There are similar programs in energy industries, however, such as the Gas Research Institute, the Electric Power Research Institute, the Texas Railroad Commission propane checkoff, and similar State programs in Louisiana, Missouri, and Alabama. These programs have enjoyed considerable success, for example, the Gas Research Institute boasts a 400-percent return for each dollar collected and invested. Their work primarily benefits urban and suburban natural gas consumers, the propane legislation will benefit rural and suburban consumers, as well as urban and suburban propane consumers.

The agricultural industry, for example, which accounts for 7 to 8 percent of all propane consumed in the United States, will see substantial benefits from propane research and development. With even marginal increases in equipment efficiency, the agricultural propane users will reap large returns.

More efficient uses of propane in other businesses, such as home construction, will further increase the value of the return on investment.

The legislation I am introducing will not actually establish the propane checkoff, but calls upon the propane industry to hold a referendum among themselves, to authorize establishment of the checkoff before it can go into effect. If the industry, propane producers, and retail marketers, vote to establish the checkoff, then the Propane Education and Research Council consisting of industry representatives, will be formed to administer the program. The legislation also looks down the road and allows the industry to terminate the program by a majority vote of both classes, or by two-thirds majority of a single class.

A companion bill, H.R. 1514, was introduced in the House of Representatives and currently enjoys broad bipartisan support. This enthusiasm underscores the wide, regional appeal of this innovative approach to meeting our domestic energy research needs. Moreover, my bill fosters industry's efforts toward efficient, clean fuels that benefit consumers and producers alike without Federal dollars and with minimal governmental involvement.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring 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. 1646

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 "Propane Education and Research Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) propane gas (also known as liquefied petroleum gas) is an essential energy commodity that provides heat, hot water, cooking fuel, and motor fuel, and has many other uses to millions of Americans;

(2) the use of propane is especially important to rural citizens and farmers, offering an efficient and economical source of gas energy;

(3) propane has been recognized as a clean fuel and can contribute in many ways to reducing pollution in cities and towns of the United States; and

(4) propane is primarily domestically produced, and the use of propane provides energy security and jobs for Americans.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COUNCIL.—The term "Council" means a Propane Education and Research Council established under section 4.

(2) INDUSTRY.—The term "industry" means persons involved in the United States in—

(A) the production, transportation, and sale of propane; and

(B) the manufacture and distribution of propane utilization equipment.

(3) INDUSTRY TRADE ASSOCIATION.—The term "industry trade association" means an