

cleaning everything from beaches to birds.

Additional good news came with a phone call from President Clinton to Governor Almond, assuring him that funds would be made available for the cleanup and fishing industries.

Mr. President, I raised a number of questions at the time and observed how unfortunate it was that the barge was not of the new double hulled design, which I have long advocated.

I understand that the barge leaked from 9 of its 14 containment holds. A double-hull might have made all the difference between an incident and a disaster.

At the time, I also observed that everyone would benefit from a thorough review of the coordination of our emergency response to oilspills.

The bill we are introducing today is a result of such an inquiry, conducted by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee under Senator CHAFEE's excellent leadership.

Our bill offers insurance incentives for oil barge owners who expedite conversion of their barges to double-hulled vessels. It also sets a deadline for the U.S. Coast Guard to issue new standards for oil barge design and operation.

The bill requires oil barges to have crews and workable anchors or a retrieval mechanism. It gives oilspill victims and scientists easier access to the oilspill liability trust fund and sets standards for the closing and reopening of fishing grounds after a spill.

Although it is not a panacea and will not prevent future oilspills, our bill goes a long way toward improving the safety of oil barges and setting a clear course for the response when a spill does occur. As we all know, those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. This bill codifies what we have learned and lessens the chance that the tragedy that struck us in January will be repeated.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. BENNETT and Mr. BRYAN):

S. 1731. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

THE NATIONAL GEOLOGIC MAPPING  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1996

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, my purpose here today is to introduce on behalf of myself and my cosponsors Senators BRYAN and BENNETT, a bill to reauthorize the highly successful National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992. The act established a cooperative geologic mapping program among the U.S. Geological Survey, State geological surveys, and geological programs at institutions of higher education in the United States. The goal of this program is to accelerate and improve the efficiency of detailed geologic mapping of critical areas in the Nation by coordinating and using the combined talents of the three participating groups.

Detailed geologic mapping is an indispensable source of information for a

broad range of societal activities and benefits, including the delineation and protection of sources of safe drinking water; assessments of coal, petroleum, natural gas, construction materials, metals, and other natural resources; understanding the physical and biological interactions that define ecosystems, and that control, and are a measure of, environmental health; identification and mitigation of natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, subsidence, and other ground failures; and many other resource and land-use planning requirements.

Only about 20 percent of the Nation is mapped at a scale adequate to meet these critical needs. Additional high-priority areas for detailed geologic mapping have been identified at State level by State-map advisory committees, and include Federal, State, and local needs and priorities.

Funding for the program is incorporated in the budget of the U.S. Geological Survey. State geological surveys and university participants receive funding from the program through a competitive proposal process that requires 1:1 matching funds from the applicant.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to join me to ensure the continued efficient collection and availability of this fundamental Earth-science information. •

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. HATFIELD, the name of the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER] 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. 1233

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the names of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] and the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER] were added as cosponsors of S. 1233, a bill to assure equitable coverage and treatment of emergency services under health plans.

S. 1271

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Arizona [Mr. MCCAIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1271, a bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

S. 1592

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1592, a bill to strike the prohibition on the transmission of abortion-related matters, and for other purposes.

S. 1612

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. ASHCROFT] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1612, a bill to provide for increased mandatory minimum sentences

for criminals possessing firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1639

At the request of Mr. DOLE, the names of the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], and the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG] were added as cosponsors of S. 1639, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a demonstration project to provide the Department of Defense with reimbursement from the medicare program for health care services provided to medicare-eligible beneficiaries under TRICARE.

S. 1646

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 1650

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1650, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit discrimination in the payment of wages on account of sex, race, or national origin, and for other purposes.

S. 1661

At the request of Mr. PRESSLER, the names of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY] and the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] were added as cosponsors of S. 1661, a bill to specify that States may waive certain requirements relating to commercial motor vehicle operators under chapter 313 of title 49, United States Code, with respect to the operators of certain farm vehicles, and for other purposes.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 49

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 49, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to require two-thirds majorities for bills increasing taxes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 85

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 85, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate that obstetrician-gynecologists should be included in Federal laws relating to the provision of health care.

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee