

markets for U.S. passenger and cargo carriers. Senator PRESSLER's outstanding work in this regard has rewarded our economy with enormous new tourism and export opportunities.

As chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Senator PRESSLER's outstanding leadership on numerous initiatives this Congress has been deservedly recognized on the Senate floor by Senators from both sides of the aisle. These significant accomplishments include passage of the landmark telecommunications law and commonsense product liability reform as well as the elimination of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Today, I want to acknowledge another area in which Senator PRESSLER's leadership is paying enormous dividends for consumers and our economy. I speak about his bipartisan leadership in the area of creating new international air service opportunities for our passenger and cargo carriers. Let me add these efforts are in addition to the tremendously important and longstanding leadership Senator PRESSLER continues to provide in the areas of air service to small communities and aviation safety—two areas of great importance to me.

For instance, just 2 months ago, Senator PRESSLER's steadfast leadership was instrumental in securing a truly historic open skies agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany. The potential long-term economic benefits of this open skies agreement are enormous. In fact, consumers traveling to Germany this summer will immediately feel the impact of this agreement. As Senator PRESSLER has predicted, the United States/German open skies agreement will be a catalyst for further liberalization of the very lucrative United States/European Union air service market.

Mr. President, I wish to bring my colleagues' attention to two recent letters further acknowledging the critical role Senator PRESSLER played in obtaining the United States/German open skies agreement.

First, Secretary of Transportation, Federico Peña, recently wrote Senator PRESSLER "[y]our strong support of the open-skies concept has been instrumental in making it possible for us to achieve this historic milestone [the U.S./German open skies agreement] in aviation. I applaud and greatly appreciate your bipartisan leadership role in the issue of great importance to all Americans." I ask unanimous consent that a copy of Secretary Peña's letter be inserted in the RECORD, at the conclusion of my remarks.

Second, German Transport Minister Matthias Wissmann recently wrote Senator PRESSLER to "express my sincere gratitude for your steadfast leadership and unwavering commitment to the goal of a fully liberalized aviation relationship between the United States and Germany. You were a cornerstone in the political process in this develop-

ment." I ask unanimous consent a copy of Minister Wissman's letter be printed in the RECORD.

Mr. President, let me conclude by saying I am very pleased to call the Senate's attention to the very important work Senator PRESSLER is doing in the area of international aviation. His efforts have been enormously beneficial to our economy, consumers, and the airline industry.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION,
Washington, DC, April 2, 1996.
Hon. LARRY PRESSLER,
*Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation, Senate, Washington,
DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for letter offering congratulations on the initialing of the U.S.-German open-skies aviation agreement.

Your strong support of the open-skies concept has been instrumental in making it possible for us to achieve this historic milestone in aviation. I applaud and greatly appreciate your bipartisan leadership role on this issue of great importance to all Americans.

The U.S.-German aviation agreement coupled with the other eleven open-skies agreements in Europe provide the critical mass that guarantees a new era in global aviation—one that relies on the marketplace to determine the kind and quality of air services that are offered to consumers and begins a process that will remove governments from a role in air service decisions. This achievement means that U.S. consumers will benefit from a much greater array of service and price options that will be tailored to their specific needs.

I, as you, appreciate the outstanding work of DAS Mark Gerchick in providing the pivotal leadership that made it possible to achieve the agreement with Germany in one round of formal talks. Mark's efforts assured that a difficult negotiation was concluded with amazing speed while achieving all of our open-skies goals.

I look forward to continuing our collaboration on this and other issues as we work hard to build a better transportation future for our country. If we can be of further assistance, please contact me or Steven Palmer, Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs, at (202) 366-4573.

Sincerely,
FEDERICO PEÑA.

BUNDESMINISTER FÜR VERKEHR,
Bonn, den 12, Marz 1996.
Hon. LARRY PRESSLER,
*Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation, U.S. Senate, Washing-
ton, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR PRESSLER: Thank you for your letter of January 1996.

I want to express my sincere gratitude for your steadfast leadership and unwavering commitment to the goal of a fully liberalized aviation relationship between the United States and Germany. You were a cornerstone in the political process in this development.

Looking back to our meeting in July 1995, I have the strong feeling that at that time together we started to tread the path which finally led to this fine agreement.

Your articulate advocacy of the mutual benefits of such a relationship, especially for consumers in both of our countries, continues to be critical in making our open skies accord a reality. I also appreciate your kind words recognizing the special challenge we Germans face in Europe. By working to-

gether armed with that understanding, we can convert those challenges to opportunities and, as you have noted yourself, our U.S.-German accord will be the catalyst for expanding the benefits of open skies to Europe as a whole.

In this context I also want to commend the admirable endeavors of your collaborator Mike Korens, whose work for this agreement is outstanding. His great personal commitment and constant monitoring since the very beginning of the process has been rewarded with our final success.

I want to make use of this opportunity, dear Senator Pressler, to also congratulate you on the telecommunications Law which you authored.

I was very sorry to hear that you had to postpone your visit to Germany. Of course I would be delighted to re-schedule your trip in the near future at a time convenient to you.

Sincerely,
MATTHIAS WISSMANN.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2662. A communication from the Under Secretary for Technology, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of rule relative to Federal Agency Guidance for the Acquisition of Modular Metric Construction Products (RIN0693-XX18) received on May 16, 1996; to the Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2663. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on Tanker Inspection Standards; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2664. A communication from the Managing Director of the Federal Communication Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of rule relative to the inspection of ships subject to the Great Lake Agreement; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2665. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule relative to Capital Leases (RIN 2132-AA55) received on May 16, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2666. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule relative to the safety zone at Long Beach Harbor, CA, (RIN AA97) received on May 16, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2667. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a temporary final rule relative to a special location regulation for Quonset Open House at North Kingstown, RI, (RIN 2115-AE46) received on May 16, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2668. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule relative to the adoption of industry standards (RIN 2115-AF09) received on May 16, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2669. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a final rule entitled "Rules and Regulations Under the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act: Notice of Final Rulemaking", received on May 16, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2670. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trade Regulation Rule on Misbranding and Deception as to Leather Content of Waist Belts", received on May 16, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2671. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the prohibition of retaining Pacific cod in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska, received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2672. A communication from the Program Management Officer of the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the American lobster fishery that clarifies the enforcement of regulations governing this fishery in the exclusive economic zone (RIN 0648-XX61), received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2673. A communication from the Program Management Officer of the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the annual management measures and a technical amendment for the ocean salmon fisheries off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California (RIN 0648-AI35), received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2674. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report concerning the future of the Interstate Commerce Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2675. A communication from the Director of the Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of three final rules concerning inseason closures in the Gulf of Alaska and in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands, received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2676. A communication from the Program Management Officer of the National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the implementation of approved measures contained in Amendment Five to the Fishery Management Plan for the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries, received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2677. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the Coast Guard's adopting of the special local regulations for the Boating Safety Parade, sponsored by the Charleston Power Squadron (RIN 2115-AE46), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2678. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transpor-

tation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the establishment of the date and time for this year's Regatta and amends the permanent regulation, received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2679. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the Coast Guard's establishing of a safety zone for the Fire Island Lighthouse Fireworks Display to be held on Great South Bay, Fire Island, NY, received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2680. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the special local regulations that are being adopted for the Key West Super Boat Race sponsored by Super Boat Racing, Inc. (RIN 2115-AE46), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2681. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the Coast Guard's establishment of a permanent special local regulation for the World's Fastest Lobster Boat Race in the waters of Moosabec Reach, Jonesport, ME (RIN 2115-AE46), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2682. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the Coast Guard's revising of the regulations governing the operations of the CSX railroad bridge at mile eighteen over the Saginaw River in Saginaw, Michigan (RIN 2115-AE47), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2683. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the minor adjustments of a previous rule about the procedures and methodology for determining Great Lakes pilotage rates (RIN 2105-AC21), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2684. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the requirements of Office Management and Budget Circular A-128, audits of state and local governments (RIN 2105-AC44), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2685. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the prohibition of retaining Pacific cod in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska, received on May 13, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2686. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule concerning the removal of the Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Act regulations from the Code of Federal Regulations (RIN 0648-AI42), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2687. A communication from the Director of the Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries

Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule relative to state by state commercial quotas for the 1996 summer flounder fishery, received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2688. A communication from the Director of the Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule relative to regulations for special exception permits: Take, import, and export marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act (RIN 0648-AD11), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2689. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of final rule relative to lifesaving equipment (RIN 2115-AB72), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2690. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a final rule relative to Rotocraft regulatory changes based on European joint aviation requirements (RIN2120-AF65), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2691. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of three final rules relative to the establishment of Class E airspace (RIN 2120-AA66), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2692. A communication from the general counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of five final rules relative to Airworthiness Standards and Directives (RIN 2120-AB36 and RIN 2120-AA64), received on May 9, 1996; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. KASSEBAUM, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1578. A bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1997 through 2002, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-275).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BREAU:

S. 1778. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on indolenine; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1779. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Bis (4-amino-3-methylcyclohexyl)-methane; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. EXON (for himself and Mr. KERREY):

S. 1780. A bill to revise the boundary of the North Platte National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.