

collection and improve the coordination of data which it has received from its various units and from other sources such as State agencies. The Act would also provide the public with greater computer access to EPA data bases.

No additional data would be required from the private sector. In fact, the current reporting burden on industry could be reduced once streamlined data collection was in place. The bill also complements new EPA initiatives aimed at consolidating permit requirements and eliminating paperwork.

This bill is an example of how we can use public power to help communities protect themselves through access to information rather than through additional programs or more bureaucracy.

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. 1935

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 "Public Trust and Environmental Accountability Act".

SEC. 2. definitions.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Agency.

(2) AGENCY.—The term "Agency" means the Environmental Protection Agency.

SEC. 3. IMPROVED INFORMATION COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION.

(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to enhance public access and encourage use of information collected by the Agency;

(2) to improve the management of information resources; and

(3) to assist Agency enforcement, pollution prevention, and multimedia permitting and reporting initiatives.

(b) PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall develop a plan to implement policies, programs, and methods for integrating and making publicly available information pertaining to the environment and public health policy concerns within the jurisdiction of the Agency.

(c) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—The policies, programs, and methods under subsection (b) shall provide for—

(1) creation of standard information formats for collection, integration, retrieval, storage, retention, and dissemination of information;

(2) improved coordination of information collection and information management to integrate separate information resources, including the development and implementation of common company, facility, industrial sector, geographic, and chemical identifiers and such other information as the Administrator determines to be appropriate;

(3) a system for indexing, locating, and obtaining information maintained by the Agency concerning parent companies, facilities, chemicals, and the regulatory status of entities subject to oversight by the Agency;

(4) ready accessibility of, and dissemination of, publicly available information generated by or submitted to the Agency, including public accessibility by computer telecommunication and other means; and

(5) universal availability of electronic reporting for all environmental reporting requirements established under laws administered by the Agency directly or through delegations to States, territories, and Indian tribes.

(d) COORDINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall coordinate the Agency's information collection and dissemination activities with the activities of other Federal, State, and local agencies to reduce unnecessary burdens and promote greater integration of information.

(2) OTHER INFORMATION.—When necessary to support the mission of the Agency, the Administrator may provide for the integration and dissemination of publicly available information not collected by the Agency.

(e) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall affect the duty of the Agency to maintain the confidentiality of trade secrets, confidential business information, or information that is subject to a rule of court or court order requiring maintenance of confidentiality.

(f) PRICING.—The Administrator may set charges for the provision of information under this section in accordance with the pricing policies of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the "Paperwork Reduction Act").

(g) DISSEMINATION POLICIES.—Dissemination policies of the Agency shall include fee reductions, fee waivers, and other support services to encourage public use of information maintained by the Agency.

(h) REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall produce and make available reports that summarize the information that has been made available under this section.

SEC. 4. SOURCE REDUCTION AWARD PROGRAM.

The Administrator shall establish an annual award program to recognize companies that operate outstanding or innovative source reduction programs.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1892

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] and the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 1892, a bill to reward States for collecting medicaid funds expended on tobacco-related illnesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1898

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Illinois [Mr. SIMON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1898, a bill to protect the genetic privacy of individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 1917

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM], and the Senator from Tennessee [Mr. FRIST] were added as cosponsors of S. 1917, a bill to authorize the State of Michigan to implement the demonstration project known as "To Strengthen Michigan Families."

S. 1928

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1928, A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate tax in-

centives for exporting jobs outside of the United States, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 277—RELATIVE TO THE BEEF AND CATTLE MARKETS

Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. BURNS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. BOND, and Mr. KEMPTHORNE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. RES. 277

Whereas historically high cattle supplies, low cattle prices, and high feed costs have brought hardship to United States cattle producers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF ANTITRUST RELATED ISSUES.

It is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Attorney General should—

(1) increase monitoring of mergers and acquisitions in the fed and nonfed beef packing sectors for potential antitrust violations; and

(2) investigate possible barriers to entry or expansion in the beef packing sector.

SEC. 2. COLLECTION AND REPORTING FUNCTIONS.

It is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Agriculture should—

(1) to the extent practicable on a regional basis, improve the collection, timeliness, and reporting of—

(A) contract, formula, and live cash cattle;

(B) captive supply cattle, including a definitional change from every 14 to every 7 days;

(C) boxed beef prices;

(D) price differentials within Department of Agriculture quality grades;

(E) all beef and live cattle exports and imports; and

(F) weekly fed cattle value matrix; and

(2) cooperate with the industry to improve collection and reporting of—

(A) retail scanner data to develop a retail price series that reflects both volume and price of all beef sold at retail; and

(B) price and quantity data for United States beef sold for consumption in the away-from-home market.

SEC. 3. SELF-REGULATION WITHIN THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) in the case of cattle that are not sold on a live cash basis, a "grid" pricing structure should be utilized to determine prices and spreads through competitive bidding not more than 7 days prior to shipment; and

(2) agricultural lenders should consider the total asset portfolio, instead of merely the cash flow, of an entity participating in the cattle and beef markets when evaluating loan performance.

SEC. 4. INTERNATIONAL BARRIERS TO TRADE.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture should continue to identify and seek to eliminate unfair trade barriers and subsidies affecting United States beef markets;

(2) the United States and Canadian Governments should expeditiously negotiate the elimination of animal health barriers that are not based on sound science; and

(3) the import ban on beef from cattle treated with approved growth hormones imposed by the European Union should be terminated.

SEC. 5. EMERGENCY LOAN GUARANTEES.

It is the sense of the Senate that funding for emergency loan guarantees, which assist