tax on social security benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 245. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to authorize the appointment of additional bankruptcy judges for the judicial district of Maryland; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. 246. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide greater flexibility and choice under the medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. SMITH):

S. 247. A bill for the relief of Rose-Marie Barbeau-Quinn; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. REID):

S. 248. A bill to establish a Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. D'AMATO (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERREY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. GREGG, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. FORD):

S. 249. A bill to require that health plans provide coverage for a minimum hospital stay for mastectomies and lymph node dissection for the treatment of breast cancer, coverage for reconstructive surgery following mastectomies, and coverage for secondary consultations; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FORD:

S. 250. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located in Paducah, Kentucky, as the "Edward Huggins Johnstone United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SHELBY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ABRAHAM, and Mr. HUTCHINSON):

S. 251. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow farmers to income average over 2 years; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GREGG:

S. 252. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduction in the capital gains tax for assets held more than 2 years, to impose a surcharge on short-term capital gains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 253. A bill to establish the negotiating objectives and fast track procedures for future trade agreements; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KOHL:

S. 254. A bill to amend part V of title 28, United States Code, to require that the Department of Justice and State Attorneys General are provided notice of a class action certification or settlement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 36. A resolution relative to the retirements of Arthur Curran, Donn Larson, and Richard Gibbons; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HELMS:

S. Res. 37. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Foreign Relations; from the Committee on Foreign Relations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. THURMOND:

S. Res. 38. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Armed Services; from the Committee on Armed Services; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. THOMPSON:

S. Res. 39. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Governmental Affairs; from the Committee on Governmental Affairs; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BOND:

S. Res. 40. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business; from the Committee on Small Business; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. Res. 41. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Special Committee on Aging; from the Special Committee on Aging; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN (for herself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. LIEBER- MAN, Mr. DASCHLE AND MRS. MURRAY):

S. 235. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage economic development through the creation of additional empowerment zones and enterprise communities and to encourage the cleanup of contaminated brownfield sites; to the Committee on Finance.

THE COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT ACT OF 1997

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure, together with my colleagues, Senators ABRAHAM, D'AMATO, JEFFORDS, LIEBERMAN, MURRAY, and DASCHLE to reintroduce the Community Empowerment Act of 1997. This legislation is designed to create new jobs and spur economic growth by encouraging the cleanup and reuse of contaminated industrial and commercial sites known as Brownfields. This bill also creates 20 new additional empowerment zones and 80 new enterprise communities all across the Nation.

I like to call them environmentally challenged sites. They are sites on which there has been some contamination but not to a level sufficient to reach Superfund status. But they are contaminated nonetheless. They are, on the one hand, excellent locations for industrial and commercial redevelopment because the transportation, more often than not, already exists. The infrastructure, the utilities, and the labor force already exists.

However, these properties are often unattractive to potential redevelopers because of the known, unknown, or perceived contamination that may exist on the property. This factor creates an incentive for companies to locate and develop in greenfields, which are undeveloped areas generally in the suburbs. This urban flight contributes to urban sprawl, taking jobs away from the city.

It also results in the paving off of many of the greenfield areas of our country.

The challenge for all of us is to stop this trend. And one way to do that is by encouraging businesses through the Tax Code to redevelop and to reuse the existing brownfield sites; to reclaim, if you will, sites that have been contaminated which have been used or used up.

At present, if an industrial property owner does environmental damage to their property and then cleans up the site, the owner is allowed to deduct the cost of that cleanup from a single year's earnings. However, in a strange twist of logic, someone who buys an environmentally damaged piece of property and cleans up that property is not allowed to expense these cleanup costs, but instead must capitalize the cost and depreciate the cleanup expense over many years.

The result of this? The result has been an urban landscape littered with vacant or abandoned properties, properties that attract crime and bring down property values in surrounding neighborhoods.

Confronting the brownfields issue can help to address many of the problems that face high unemployment in older communities, including job creation, economic renewal, environmental justice, and environmental improvement. The collective efforts of everyone, particularly the nonprofit community, the private sector, government at all levels, developers, and community groups, are essential to begin the process of returning brownfields property back to productive use and to bring economic growth back to disadvantaged cities and rural areas.

Under the provisions of this legislation, qualifying brownfields will be provided full first-year expensing of environmental cleanup costs under the Federal Tax Code. Full first-year expensing simply means that a tax deduction will be allowed for the cleanup costs in the year that those costs are incurred.

The Community Empowerment Act provides tax incentives that we hope will break through some of the current barriers preventing the private sector from investing in brownfields cleanup projects.

So it provides a carrot, if you will, to the private sector to begin to help not only with the environmental cleanup but also with urban redevelopment. So it becomes a win-win in both regards in that way.

In my own State of Illinois, the brownfields provisions will have a major impact on efforts to help restore neglected and abandoned industrial areas. It will facilitate the cleanup of some 300 to 500 sites in Illinois, each of