

She and I worked together on a bill last year that set in motion a plan for Corpus Christi and Nueces County to get the water our community needs. Corpus Christi is in a better position today to secure water for our population and economy as a result of her service, and I am proud to have worked with her as mayor.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mayor Mary Rhodes for her service and in wishing her well in her future endeavors.

THE MORRIS K. UDALL ACT OF
1997

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 5, 1997

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, it was with bitter-sweet pride that last week I once again introduced the Morris K. Udall Wilderness Act of 1997. I introduced this legislation in the last Congress and it was pushed aside—along with countless other environmental initiatives that were sensible, rational legislation—a victim of not just partisan bickering. That would be bad enough—but pushed aside because of powerful oil interests hell-bent on cashing in today while abandoning sound stewardship in their exploration and exploitation of fragile American natural treasures. This legislation is very much needed to provide permanent wilderness designation and protection for a magnificent and special place, the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The Arctic Refuge coastal plain is a unique ecosystem, long recognized for its rich biological diversity. Today over 200 species of wildlife depend on the coastal plain for survival. Muskoxen, wolves, polar and grizzly bears, and countless complex fauna and flora create a web of life unlike any other place on Earth. The coastal plain is perhaps best known as the home of the 160,000 member Porcupine Caribou herd, which migrates there for calving and post-calving each year. In reality, this Arctic desert landscape is a 20th century window to the ice age, referred to as the North American Serengeti.

I have worked on issues affecting Alaska for a long time. One of my first assignments in Congress was to serve on the Alaska Lands Subcommittee with then Chairman Mo Udall and John Seiberling. Over a 4-year period, Congress debated the appropriate disposition, designation and use of Federal lands in Alaska. We frankly lost some debates and designations and won the preservation of magnificent areas constituting our North American natural legacy.

The final version of H.R. 39, signed into law by President Carter, is one of the most significant pieces of environmental law ever enacted. While this legislation protected many of Alaska's unique resources, the final disposition of the Arctic Refuge was left with limited safeguards, but not permanently resolved. While the House of Representatives strongly supported wilderness designation, the final compromise has left open the possibility of further exploration and development in this fragile area.

For the past 16 years the coastal plain, or 1002 lands, has been in a twilight zone enjoying the status of wilderness without the full force and protection of the law. The failure to

designate the coastal plain as wilderness has haunted us and placed this unique ecosystem at risk. In the last Congress, some of my colleagues supported opening the refuge to oil exploration as a means of raising revenue to balance the budget. We must put this destructive policy path behind us. We must protect this jewel of our national refuge system.

This wilderness designation is under attack from a host of special interests. Instead of considering the potentially catastrophic environmental consequences of oil drilling in the coastal plain, they are looking to pad their already bulging wallets with short-term profits. In short, they are seeking instant gratification at the sacrifice of our children's natural legacy.

Mr. Speaker, the choices in this debate are quite clear. We can save, or we can destroy. We can protect, or we can plunder. We can choose to listen to the majority of the American people who oppose the devastation of this special place, or we can choose to irresponsibly give heed to the fortunate few. I choose to save; I choose to protect; and I choose to listen to the American people, who want to provide true wilderness protection for the Arctic Refuge.

Protecting the environment through policy and law is a topic and craft that Mo Udall knows a lot about, and serving with him was a distinct pleasure and honor. Chairman Udall was dedicated to preserving our Nation's crown jewels for future generations. He worked seriously, but always had a knack for making his points with wit and poignancy. In talking about the Alaska Land Legislation, Mo spoke eloquently to all Americans: "Not in our generation, nor ever again, will we have a land and wildlife opportunity approaching the scope and importance of this one. In terms of wilderness preservation, Alaska is the last frontier. This time, given one great final chance, let us strive to do what is right."

We couldn't do better than to honor Chairman Udall with this designation that he fought so hard to put in place. The American reservoir of values, vision and inspiration that Mo Udall evoked will be enlisted today as Congress once again acts to determine the fate of the Arctic Refuge.

I urge my colleagues to support this effort. We should end this debate and send an important message to the people we represent: we are listening. We will not auction off your natural legacy to powerful special interests. We will follow Mo's wise counsel and do it right, for now and for our children.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for

printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 6, 1997, may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 7

9:30 a.m.
Joint Economic
To hold hearings to examine the employment-unemployment situation for February.
1334 Longworth Building

10:00 a.m.
Rules and Administration
To hear and consider the Committee on Governmental Affairs' request for additional funding.
SR-301

MARCH 10

1:30 p.m.
Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management and The District of Columbia Subcommittee
To hold hearings to review management issues for the Department of Commerce.
SD-342

MARCH 11

9:00 a.m.
Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for agricultural research.
SR-332

9:30 a.m.
Appropriations
VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Consumer Information Center, and the Office of Consumer Affairs.
SD-138

Judiciary
To hold joint hearings with the House Judiciary's Subcommittee on the Constitution to examine issues relating to partial birth abortion.
SD-G50

Labor and Human Resources
Employment and Training Subcommittee
To hold hearings to review Federal job training programs.
SD-430

Indian Affairs
Business meeting, to consider pending calendar business.
SR-485

10:00 a.m.
Appropriations
Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for Food and Consumer Service, Department of Agriculture.
SD-124

Armed Services
To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense and the future years defense program, focusing on the unified commands military strategies and operational requirements.
SD-106

Budget	MARCH 13	MARCH 18
To hold hearings to examine a proposal by a House coalition relating to the budget for fiscal year 1998 and beyond. SD-608	9:00 a.m. Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for agricultural research. SR-332	9:00 a.m. Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for agricultural research. SR-332
Governmental Affairs To hold hearings to examine issues relating to the census in the year 2000. SD-342	9:30 a.m. Energy and Natural Resources To resume hearings to examine issues with regard to competitive change in the electric power industry. SD-G50	9:30 a.m. Appropriations VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Room to be announced
10:30 a.m. Finance To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 1998 for the Medicaid program. SD-215	Environment and Public Works Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, focusing on program eligibility. SD-406	Appropriations Energy and Water Development Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for energy research programs of the Department of Energy. SD-124
2:00 p.m. Appropriations Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Small Business Administration. S-146, Capitol	10:00 a.m. Labor and Human Resources Business meeting, to mark up S. 4, to provide private sector employees the same opportunities for time-and-a-half compensatory time off, biweekly work programs, and flexible credit hour programs to help balance the demands and needs of work and family, and to clarify the provisions relating to exemptions of certain professionals from the minimum wage and overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and pending nominations. SD-430	Environment and Public Works To hold hearings on proposals to authorize state and local governments to enact flow control laws and to regulate the interstate transportation of solid waste. SD-406
2:15 p.m. Armed Services Acquisition and Technology Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense and the future years defense program, focusing on science and technology programs. SR-222	2:30 p.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation To hold hearings on S. 377, to promote electronic commerce by facilitating the use of strong encryption. SR-253	10:00 a.m. Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture. SD-138
2:30 p.m. Commerce, Science, and Transportation To hold hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense and the future years defense program, focusing on science and technology programs. SR-222	MARCH 12	Environment and Public Works Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, focusing on environmental programs and statewide and metropolitan planning. SD-406
9:30 a.m. Energy and Natural Resources Business meeting, to mark up S. 104, to reform United States policy with regard to the management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. SD-366	9:30 a.m. Joint Economic To hold hearings to examine economic problems of the income tax system. SD-628	Labor and Human Resources To hold hearings on the nomination of Alexis M. Herman, of Alabama, to be Secretary of Labor. SD-430
Labor and Human Resources Public Health and Safety Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine scientific discoveries in cloning, focusing on challenges for public policy. SD-G50	2:00 p.m. Appropriations Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Commerce. S-146, Capitol	MARCH 19
10:00 a.m. Appropriations Defense Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense, focusing on missile projects. SD-192	Energy and Natural Resources National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine the future of the National Park System and to identify and discuss the needs, requirements, and innovative programs that will insure the Park Service will continue to meet its responsibilities well into the next century. SD-366	9:30 a.m. Environment and Public Works Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, focusing on environmental programs and statewide and metropolitan planning. SD-406
Appropriations Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Justice. S-146, Capitol	MARCH 14	Labor and Human Resources To hold hearings to examine proposals to reform the operation of the Food and Drug Administration. SD-430
Finance To hold hearings to examine the Graduate Medical Education program. SD-215	9:30 a.m. Environment and Public Works To hold hearings on the nominations of Johnny H. Hayes, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, Brig. Gen. Robert Bernard Flowers, USA, to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission, and Judith M. Espinosa, of New Mexico, and Michael Rappoport, of Arizona, each to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation. SD-406	Veterans' Affairs To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendations of the Disabled American Veterans. 345 Cannon Building
2:00 p.m. Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Defense and the future years defense program, focusing on policies pertaining to military compensation and quality of life programs. SR-232A	Labor and Human Resources To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Higher Education Act. SD-430	2:00 p.m. Appropriations Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Securities and Exchange Commission. S-146, Capitol
Commerce, Science, and Transportation To hold hearings to examine universal telephone service. SR-253		MARCH 20
		9:00 a.m. Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for agricultural research. SR-332

9:30 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for atomic energy defense activities of the Department of Energy. SD-124

Energy and Natural Resources
 To resume hearings to examine issues with regard to competitive change in the electric power industry. SH-216

Veterans' Affairs
 To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the legislative recommendations of AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, the Veterans of World War I, and the Vietnam Veterans of America. 345 Cannon Building

10:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Education. SD-192

Appropriations
 Transportation Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Transportation. SD-192

Labor and Human Resources
 To resume hearings on proposed legislation authorizing funds for programs of the Higher Education Act. SD-430

2:00 p.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation Subcommittee
 To resume hearings to examine the future of the National Park System and to identify and discuss the needs, requirements, and innovative programs that will insure the Park Service will continue to meet its responsibilities well into the next century. SD-366

APRIL 8

9:30 a.m.
 Appropriations
 VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Environmental Protection Agency. SD-138

10:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Farm Service Agency, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and the Risk Management Agency, Department of Agriculture. SD-124

2:00 p.m.
 Appropriations
 Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
 To hold hearings to examine child pornography issues. S-146, Capitol

10:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Drug Enforcement Administration. S-146, Capitol

Appropriations
 Transportation Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Transportation. SD-192

APRIL 15

9:30 a.m.
 Appropriations
 VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. SD-138

10:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Rural Utilities Service, the Rural Housing Service, the Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization Center, all of the Department of Agriculture. SD-124

2:00 p.m.
 Appropriations
 Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on counter-terrorism issues. S-146, Capitol

APRIL 16

10:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Transportation Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Transportation. SD-124

2:00 p.m.
 Appropriations
 Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Federal Communications Commission. S-146, Capitol

APRIL 17

1:30 p.m.
 Appropriations
 Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Supreme Court of the United States and the Judiciary. S-146, Capitol

APRIL 22

9:30 a.m.
 Appropriations
 VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the National Science Foundation and the Office of Science and Technology Policy. SD-192

Appropriations
 Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Environmental Management Program of the Department of Energy. SD-124

10:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Agricultural Research Service, the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, the Economic Research Service, and the National Agricultural Statistics Service, all of the Department of Agriculture. SD-138

APRIL 24

9:30 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Energy and Water Development Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Corp of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior. SD-124

APRIL 29

9:30 a.m.
 Appropriations
 VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Veterans Affairs. SD-138

10:00 a.m.
 Appropriations
 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Resources. SD-124

MAY 6

9:30 a.m.
 Appropriations
 VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Subcommittee
 To hold hearings on proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 1998 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. SD-138

CANCELLATIONS

MARCH 11

10:00 a.m.
 Energy and Natural Resources
 To hold hearings on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 1998 for the Department of Energy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. SD-366

MARCH 13

10:00 a.m.
 Labor and Human Resources
 To hold hearings to examine proposals to improve the health status of children. SD-430