

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL  
U.S. SENATE,  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING,  
Washington, DC, 1997.

Hon. ALBERT A. GORE, Jr.,  
President, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Under authority of Senate Resolution 73, agreed to February 13, 1995, I am submitting to you the annual report of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, *Developments in Aging: 1996*, volume 1.

Senate Resolution 4, the Committee Systems Reorganization Amendments of 1977, authorizes the Special Committee on Aging "to conduct a continuing study of any and all matters pertaining to problems and opportunities of older people, including but not limited to, problems and opportunities of maintaining health, of assuring adequate income, of finding employment, of engaging in productive and rewarding activity, of securing proper housing and, when necessary, of obtaining care and assistance." Senate Resolution 4 also requires that the results of these studies and recommendations be reported to the Senate annually.

This report describes actions taken during 1996 by the Congress, the administration, and the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, which are significant to our Nation's older citizens. It also summarizes and analyzes the Federal policies and programs that are of the most continuing importance for older persons and their families.

On behalf of the members of the committee and its staff, I am pleased to transmit this report to you.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, *Chairman*.

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Special Committee on Aging: Special Report entitled "Developments In Aging: 1996, Volume 1" (Rept. No. 105-36).

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Eric H. Holder, Jr., of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that he be confirmed.)

#### 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. TORRICELLI (for himself and Mr. SARBANES):

S. 951. A bill to reestablish the Office of Noise Abatement and Control in the Environmental Protection Agency; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. KYL, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 952. A bill to establish a Federal cause of action for discrimination and preferential treatment in Federal actions on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SHELBY (for himself, Mr. NICKLES, and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 953. A bill to require certain Federal agencies to protect the right of private property owners, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KERREY:

S. 954. A bill to assure competition in telecommunications markets; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. 955. An original bill making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself and Mr. SARBANES):

S. 951. A bill to reestablish the Office of Noise Abatement and Control in the Environmental Protection Agency; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

THE QUIET COMMUNITIES ACT OF 1997

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce, along with Senator SARBANES, the Quiet Communities Act of 1997. It is estimated that noise levels in communities across the country have increased more than 10 percent over the last decade. Studies indicate that noise affects one's ability to concentrate and can cause sleep deprivation, resulting in deleterious effects on health. Air noise is polluting our communities, and we must face and address this reality that affects the quality of life of our constituents.

The Federal Aviation Administration predicts there will be 36 percent more flights in 2007 than there are today and that 60 of the 100 largest airports in this country are proposing to build new runways. A recent study by the Natural Resources' Defense Council found that the FAA's noise policy threshold is far too high for residential communities. Additionally, the study found there are over 250,000 people residing near Newark, JFK, and LaGuardia suffering from more noise than even the FAA deems fit for residences.

In the 1970 Clean Air Act, Congress authorized \$30 million for the establishment of the Office of Noise Abatement and Control [ONAC] within the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] to study noise and its effect on public health and welfare, and to consult with other Federal agencies on noise related issues. In 1982, ONAC's funding was terminated and the Office has been virtually dormant since.

Each year, new studies show potential links between high noise levels and health and quality of life issues. Few issues are as volatile or as controversial as air noise. The EPA has consistently differed with the FAA—and advocated stricter measures—on the selection of noise measurement methodologies, on the threshold of noise at which health impacts are felt, and on the implementation of noise abatement programs at airports around the Nation.

It is time to properly address the aircraft noise that affects millions of people every day in manners that are both short and long term. The Quiet Communities Act of 1997 will reestablish

within the EPA an Office of Noise Abatement and Control which will be responsible for coordinating Federal noise abatement activities, updating or developing noise standards, providing technical assistance to local communities, and promoting research and education on the impacts of noise pollution. The Office will emphasize noise abatement approaches that rely on State and local activity, market incentives, and coordination with other public and private agencies. The act will also provide for the EPA to submit recommendations to Congress and the FAA regarding recommendations on new measures that could be implemented to mitigate the impact of aircraft noise on surrounding communities. I ask unanimous consent that this be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 951

*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 "Quiet Communities Act of 1997".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1)(A) for too many citizens of the United States, noise from aircraft, vehicular traffic, and a variety of other sources is a constant source of torment; and

(B) nearly 20,000,000 citizens of the United States are exposed to noise levels that can lead to psychological and physiological damage, and another 40,000,000 people are exposed to noise levels that cause sleep or work disruption;

(2)(A) chronic exposure to noise has been linked to increased risk of cardiovascular problems, strokes, and nervous disorders; and

(B) excessive noise causes sleep deprivation and task interruptions, which pose untold costs on society in diminished worker productivity;

(3)(A) to carry out the Clean Air Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), the Noise Control Act of 1972 (42 U.S.C. 4901 et seq.), and the Quiet Communities Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-609; 92 Stat. 3079), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency established an Office of Noise Abatement and Control;

(B) the responsibilities of the Office of Noise Abatement and Control included promulgating noise emission standards, requiring product labeling, facilitating the development of low emission products, coordinating Federal noise reduction programs, assisting State and local abatement efforts, and promoting noise education and research; and

(C) funding for the Office of Noise Abatement and Control was terminated in 1982 and no funds have been provided since;

(4) because the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency remains responsible for enforcing regulations issued under the Noise Control Act of 1972 (42 U.S.C. 4901 et seq.) even though funding for the Office of Noise Abatement and Control has been terminated, and because that Act prohibits State and local governments from regulating noise sources in many situations, noise abatement programs across the United States lie dormant;

(5) as the population grows and air and vehicle traffic continues to increase, noise pollution is likely to become an even greater problem in the future; and