

Microsystems, and Bill Gates, head of Microsoft, all of whom are desperate for skilled workers. Mr. Gates and Mr. McNealy alone have 4,522 technical job openings right now that they cannot fill.

"Raising these [skilled immigrant] caps . . . would be a good thing for the technology industry and for the country," Mr. Gates told the Senate earlier this month.

Not too many years ago the overriding issue in our country was unemployment and job security. Today it is skilled, high-paying jobs going begging and the specter of the mighty American economy turning away business opportunities and markets because it lacks qualified workers.

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-4443. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 20, 1998; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4444. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, the report of the Comprehensive Electricity Competition Plan; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4445. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 26, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4446. A communication from the Executive Director of the District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-4447. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 25, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4448. A communication from the General Sales Manager and Vice President of the Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the monetization report for the fiscal years 1993 through 1995; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4449. A communication from the Deputy Director of the Regulations Policy and Management, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 25, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-4450. A communication from the Director of Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 25, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-4451. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 26, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-4452. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4453. A communication from the Executive Director of the Committee for Purchase

from People Who are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4454. A communication from the Staff Director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4455. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the strategic plan for fiscal years 1999 through 2004; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4456. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of five rules received on March 25, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4457. A communication from the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule received on March 25, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-372. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Michigan; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 147

Whereas, The Great Lakes are unique and priceless resources. In addition to their importance as the world's most accessible source of fresh water, this network of inland seas plays pivotal roles in transportation and in the economies of the bordering states and Ontario; and

Whereas, A key component of Michigan's maritime infrastructure is our system of small harbors. These harbors are in jeopardy of losing the federal funding that provides for maintenance through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps of Engineers has reportedly informed the Michigan Department of Natural Resources that it plans to eliminate funds for small harbor dredging and maintaining seawalls and docks. For many years, the federal government and the state have operated a partnership in keeping the small harbors. While these are not major contributors to commercial interests, the nearly fifty small harbors presently in jeopardy are very important to boating and fishing activities in this state. Boating and fishing represent as much as one fifth of the state's tourism industry, a fundamental part of our economy; and

Whereas, Another federal program in danger of being eliminated or inadequately funded is the work of combating the sea lamprey in the Great Lakes. This species is a persistent threat to fishing. Individual states should not be required to bear this economic burden alone. The federal government has underfunded the lamprey control program to an extent that forces Michigan to spend much more than it should to deal with a problem facing several states and our neighbors in Canada; and

Whereas, if the federal government abandons its commitments in the areas of small harbor maintenance and lamprey control, the ultimate result will be higher costs and more difficulties for the region's economy and countless communities. To eliminate or seriously cut federal investment in the Great Lakes is a short-sighted approach to take; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we memorialize the Congress of the United States to provide full funding for harbor maintenance and lamprey control in the Great Lakes and to urge other Great Lakes states to join in this effort; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the legislatures and governors of the other states bordering the Great Lakes.

POM-373. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 55

Whereas, the forests of New Hampshire are one of the state's most valuable natural resources, providing wood and timber products, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, clean air and water, and scenic vistas throughout the state; and

Whereas, there are more than 80,000 owners of forestland in New Hampshire; and

Whereas, the forest products industry is the third largest sector of the state's manufacturing economy, employing over 15,000 individuals and providing economic benefits to communities throughout the state; and

Whereas, the ice storm of January 1998 had a significant effect upon the forests of New Hampshire by damaging hundreds of thousands of acres of timberland; and

Whereas, the storm caused financial loss to landowners throughout the state estimated in the tens of millions of dollars; and

Whereas, the storm caused financial loss to landowners throughout the state estimated in the tens of millions of dollars; and

Resolved by the House of Representatives: That the New Hampshire house of representatives hereby urges landowners of the State to take all necessary and responsible actions to protect forests from future threats of fire and insect and disease outbreaks; and

That the New Hampshire house of representatives hereby urges municipalities to work closely with landowners, foresters, loggers, and arborists to provide for the removal of storm-damaged timber in a timely, efficient, and safe manner; and

That the New Hampshire House of Representatives urges landowners of the state to utilize wood from the ice storm of 1998 in the State's biomass plants and pulpwood plants; and

That the New Hampshire house of representatives hereby commends the New Hampshire congressional delegation for their efforts to assure federal assistance to the State's landowners and forest industry in the form of low-interest loans and cost-share programs that encourage responsible land stewardship; and

That the New Hampshire house of representatives hereby encourages the New Hampshire congressional delegation to strive to provide tax incentives that recognize the economic loss suffered as a result of the ice storm of 1998; and

That copies of this resolution, signed by the speaker of the house of representatives, be forwarded by the clerk of the House of Representatives to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of the New Hampshire congressional delegation, and to the state library.

POM-374. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of New

Hampshire; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

HOUSE RESOLUTION 53

Whereas, the state of New Hampshire has in place more rigorous statutes for the disclosure of campaign finances than the federal government of the United States of America; and

Whereas, the disclosure of campaign finances is of major importance to the bond of trust between our citizenry and our federal and state governments, and to the deterrence of government corruption; and

Whereas, the gap between federal and state laws in the disclosure of campaign finances and the assertion of federal sovereignty in this area has meant that our state candidates for the federal offices of United States Representative and Senator have not abided by the same high standards we require of state and local candidates; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives: That the house of representatives of New Hampshire hereby urges the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign, a bill requiring at least as much disclosure of finances by federal candidates as the state from which the candidate seeks election requires of its state and local candidates; and

That the house of representatives of New Hampshire hereby urges all New Hampshire candidates for federal office to respect the spirit of our laws by voluntary compliance with the state's disclosure laws as spelled out in RSA 664:6-7; and

That copies of this resolution, signed by the speaker of the house of representatives, be forwarded by the house clerk to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the New Hampshire congressional delegation; and

That copies of this resolution be made available to all candidates for federal office by the secretary of state.

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. COCHRAN (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. LOTT, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. HELMS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. INHOPE, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BURNS, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. MACK, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. BOND, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. FRIST, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. KYL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. GRAMS):

S. 1873. A bill to state the policy of the United States regarding the deployment of a missile defense system capable of defending the territory of the United States against limited ballistic missile attack; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. REID):

S. 1874. A bill to improve the ability of small businesses, Federal agencies, industry, and universities to work with Department of Energy contractor-operated facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. 1875. A bill to initiate a coordinated national effort to prevent, detect, and educate the public concerning Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect and to identify effective interventions for children, adolescents, and adults with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 1876. A bill to amend part S of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to permit the use of certain amounts for assistance to jail-based substance treatment programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 1877. A bill to remove barriers to the provision of affordable housing for all Americans; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1878. A bill to amend the Immigration Nationality Act to authorize a temporary increase in the number of skilled foreign workers admitted to the United States, to improve efforts to recruit United States workers in lieu of foreign workers, and to enforce labor conditions regarding non-immigrant aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. REID):

S. 1874. A bill to improve the ability of small businesses, Federal agencies, industry, and universities to work with Department of Energy contractor-operated facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SMALL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, partnerships among our federal laboratories, universities, and industry provide important benefits to our nation. They help to create innovative new products and services that drive our economy and improve our quality of life.

I have personally observed the positive impacts of well crafted partnerships. These partnerships enhance the ability of the laboratories and other contractor-operated facilities of the Department of Energy to accomplish their federal missions at the same time that the companies benefit through enhanced competitiveness from the technical resources available at these sites.

I have also seen important successes achieved by other federal agencies and companies that utilized the resources of the national laboratories and other Department sites through contract research mechanisms. Contract research enables these sites to contribute their technical expertise in cases where the private sector can not supply a customer's needs. Partnerships and other interactions enable companies and other agencies to accomplish their own missions better, faster, and cheaper.

I've seen spectacular examples where small businesses have been created around breakthrough technologies from the national laboratories and other contractor-operated sites of the DOE. But, at present, only the Department's Defense Programs has a specific program for small business partnerships and assistance.

All programs of the Department have expertise that can be driving small business successes. Historically, in the United States, small businesses have often been the most innovative and the fastest to exploit new technical opportunities—all of the Department's programs should be open to the small business interactions that Defense Programs has so effectively utilized.

I have been concerned that barriers to these partnerships and interactions continue to exist within the Department of Energy. In addition, the Department's laboratories and other sites need continuing encouragement to be fully receptive to partnership opportunities that meet both their own mission objectives and industry's goals. And finally, small business interactions should be encouraged across the Department of Energy, not only in Defense Programs.

For these reasons, I introduce today the Department of Energy Small Business and Industry Partnership Enhancement Act of 1998. This Partnership Enhancement Act removes barriers to more effective utilization of all of the Department's contractor-operated facilities by industry, other federal agencies, and universities. The bill covers all the Department's contractor-operated facilities—national laboratories and their other sites like Kansas City, Pantex, Hanford, Savannah River, or the Nevada Test Site.

This bill also provides important encouragement to the contractor-operated sites to increase their partnerships and other interactions with universities and companies. And finally, it creates opportunities for small businesses to benefit from the technical resources available at all of the Department's contractor-operated facilities.

This bill amends the Atomic Energy Act, which limited the areas wherein the Department's facilities could provide contract research, not in competition with the private sector, to only those mission areas undertaken in the earliest days of the AEC. My bill recognizes that the Department's responsibilities are far broader than the original AEC, and that all parts of the Department should be available to help on a contract basis wherever capabilities are not available from private industry.

One barrier at the Department to contract research involves charges added by the Department to the cost of work accomplished by a site. This bill requires that charges to customers for contract research at these facilities be fully recovered, and stops the addition of extra charges by the Department. The bill requires that any customer of