

against Muslims in some neighborhoods across the United States; and

Whereas all persons in the United States who espouse and adhere to the values of the founders of our Nation should help in the fight against bias, bigotry, and intolerance in all their forms and from all their sources: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That—

(1) Congress condemns anti-Muslim intolerance and discrimination as wholly inconsistent with the American values of religious tolerance and pluralism;

(2) while Congress respects and upholds the right of individuals to free speech, Congress acknowledges that individuals and organizations that foster such intolerance create an atmosphere of hatred and fear that divides the Nation;

(3) Congress resolves to uphold a level of political discourse that does not involve making a scapegoat of an entire religion or drawing political conclusions on the basis of religious doctrine; and

(4) Congress recognizes the contributions of American Muslims, who are followers of one of the three major monotheistic religions of the world and one of the fastest growing faiths in the United States.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce S. Con. Res. 94, which encourages religious tolerance toward Muslims in America. I am proud to join my colleague, Senator JOE LIEBERMAN, in co-sponsoring this legislation. S. Con Res. 94 calls upon Congress to lead the effort in condemning anti-Muslim intolerance and discrimination.

Many may ask why a resolution such as this needs to be introduced in Congress. The answer is, unfortunately, that some Muslims in America have been subjected to discrimination and harassment based simply upon their religious beliefs. This, Mr. President, is inimical to the protections of our Constitution, and to our long-held, fundamental beliefs concerning religious tolerance and pluralism.

It is important to note that Islam is one of the three great monotheistic religions based upon the teachings of Abraham. The American Muslim community, numbering close to 5 million, is a vibrant part of our nation. The many mosques, Islamic schools and centers across America serve to remind us all that Islam has contributed to advancements in the fields of mathematics, science, medicine, law, philosophy, art and literature. Furthermore, many Americans of the Muslim faith are leaders in their communities, and successes in their professions.

It is my sincere hope that our colleagues will join us in taking a stand against anti-Muslim intolerance and discrimination by co-sponsoring this legislation.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I am proud to join Senator ABRAHAM in submitting this resolution recognizing the need—indeed the obligation—for our nation to show greater tolerance towards Americans of Muslim faith. Tolerance for people of all faiths was among the founding principles of our nation. Since the early 17th Century,

when the Puritans fled to America seeking the religious freedom that was denied them in England, our nation has cherished religious pluralism and ingrained in its people the value of allowing every person to worship according to the dictates of his or her own conscience. When the Framers drafted the Constitution, they saw this principle as so important, so sacrosanct, that they enshrined religious freedom not once, but twice, in the Bill of Rights' very first Amendment. Perhaps because of this constitutional mandate, or perhaps because of the resulting tolerance the First Amendment has engendered in our society, our nation has in the more than 200 years since it began become a haven for those seeking both refuge from religious persecution and a society accepting and nurturing of a pluralism in religious beliefs.

Indeed, like millions of their coreligionists, my own grandparents came to the United States from Central and Eastern Europe early this century, in part to escape the discrimination they suffered on account of their Jewish faith and heritage. They and those of us who descended from them ultimately found an acceptance in this country that is virtually unparalleled in history. As a result of this country's continued willingness to welcome people of different faiths like my grandparents, both we and American society have been enriched.

Unfortunately, the traditional American values of religious tolerance and acceptance thus far too often have been denied to a more recent group of arrivals and their descendants. Despite the tremendous contributions Muslim Americans are making to American society, and despite the fact that Islam shares a common origin—and common values—with America's two other predominant monotheistic religions, Americans of Islamic faith have been subjected to harassment and discrimination solely on account of their religion and heritage. This must end. It is time for us to reaffirm our commitment to religious pluralism and tolerance. It is time for us to loudly proclaim that a diversity of religious beliefs and traditions enriches rather than diminishes our society because religion—including Islam—is a great source of values and good deeds in our democracy. It is time for us to extend to our Muslim citizens in practice the promise of our nation's ideals: tolerance of and gratitude for their religious beliefs. I hope the resolution we are submitting today puts us one step closer to achieving that ideal.

SENATE RESOLUTION 224—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING AN INTERNATIONAL PROJECT TO EVALUATE AND FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr.

INOUYE, and Mr. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 224

Whereas currently in the post Cold-War world, there are new opportunities to facilitate international political and scientific cooperation on cost-effective and advanced innovative nuclear waste technologies;

Whereas there is increasing public interest in monitoring and remediation of nuclear wastes; and

Whereas it is in the best interest of the United States to explore and develop options with the international community to facilitate the exchange of evolving advanced nuclear waste technologies: *Now, therefore, be it*

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—the President should instruct the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and other officials as appropriate, to consider the Advanced Technology Research Project (known as "ATRP") and report to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate on:

(1) whether the United States should encourage the establishment of an international project to facilitate the evaluation and international exchange of data (including cost data) relating to advanced nuclear waste technologies, including technologies for solid and liquid radioactive wastes and contaminated soils and sediments;

(2) whether such a project could be funded privately through industry, public interest, and scientific organizations and administered by an international non-governmental, nonprofit organization, with operations in the United States, Russia, Japan, and other countries that have an interest in developing such technologies; and

(3) any legislation that the Secretary believes would be required to enable such a project to be undertaken.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RESTRUCTURING AND REFORM ACT OF 1998

ROTH AMENDMENT NO. 2339

Mr. ROTH proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 2676) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restructure and reform the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 401, strike line 3, and insert: "beginning after December 31, 1998".

On page 415, between lines 16 and 17, insert: **SEC. 5007. CLARIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF SPECIFIED LIABILITY LOSS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) of section 172(f)(1) (defining specified liability loss) is amended to read as follows:

"(B) Any amount (not described in subparagraph (A)) allowable as a deduction under this chapter which is attributable to a liability—

"(i) under a Federal or State law requiring the reclamation of land, decommissioning of a nuclear power plant (or any unit thereof), dismantlement of an offshore drilling platform, remediation of environmental contamination, or payment of workmen's compensation, and

"(ii) with respect to which the act (or failure to act) giving rise to such liability occurs at least 3 years before the beginning of the taxable year."