

to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 41

Whereas, congress, through the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (FAIR Act), mandated that the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture consolidate the then existing thirty-two federal milk marketing orders into not less than ten nor more than fourteen orders by April 4, 1999; and

Whereas, the FAIR Act also authorized the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture to review and reform the pricing and other provisions of the consolidated orders; and

Whereas, on January 23, 1998, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture issued proposed rules for federal milk order consolidations and reforms; and

Whereas, these proposed rules included two options for pricing milk used in Class I (fluid milk products), which are noted and referred to as Option 1A and Option 1B; and

Whereas, Option 1A is similar to the present geographic price structures; however, Option 1B would reduce the minimum federal order prices in Louisiana by more than one dollar per hundredweight; and

Whereas, while demand has been rising due to increasing population, milk production in Louisiana and the entire Southeast has declined during each of the past seven years; and as a result, larger quantities of milk are imported from other regions at higher cost than local milk; and

Whereas, implementation of Option 1B, even with the highest transition option, would aggravate the loss of dairy farms and local milk production; and

Whereas, such loss will be devastating to the dairy farmer, the rural communities, and the consumers. Therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to support, and urges and requests the United States Secretary of Agriculture to incorporate, Option 1A as the pricing procedure in all federal milk marketing orders in his final decision on consolidation and reform of these orders. Be it

*Further Resolved*, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JEFFORDS, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 2614. A bill to improve the reading and literacy skills of children and families by improving in-service instructional practices for teachers who teach reading, to stimulate the development of more high-quality family literacy programs, to support extended learning-time opportunities for children, to ensure that children can read well and independently not later than third grade, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-208).

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amended preamble:

H. Con. Res. 131. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the ocean (Rept. No. 105-209).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment and with a preamble:

S.J. Res. 41. A joint resolution approving the location of a Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial in the Nation's Capital (Rept. No. 105-210).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1683. A bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction over part of the Lake Chelan National Recreation Area from the Secretary of the Interior to the Secretary of Agriculture for inclusion in the Wenatchee National Forest.

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. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. GORTON, Mr. WELLSTONE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CHAFEE, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. ROBB, Mr. INOUE, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. KOHL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CLELAND, and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. 2152. A bill to establish a program to provide credit and other assistance for encouraging microenterprises in developing countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. 2153. A bill to require certain expenditures by the Federal Reserve System to be made subject to congressional appropriations, to prohibit the maintenance of surplus accounts by Federal reserve banks, to provide for annual independent audits of Federal reserve banks, to apply Federal procurement regulations to the Federal Reserve System, to reform the pricing practices of the Federal Reserve System for services provided to the domestic banking system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 2154. A bill to promote research to identify and evaluate the health effects of silicone breast implants, and to ensure that women and their doctors receive accurate information about such implants; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 2155. A bill to provide restitution of the economic potential lost to communities dependent on Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in New Mexico due to inadequate implementation of the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LOTT, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. BURNS, Mr. MACK, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FRIST, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. DODD, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. ROBB, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. LEAHY):

S.J. Res. 50. A joint resolution to disapprove the rule submitted by the Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services on June 1, 1998, relating to surety bond requirements for home health agencies under the medicare and medicaid programs; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S.J. Res. 51. A joint resolution granting the consent of Congress to the Potomac Highlands Airport Authority Compact entered into between the States of Maryland and West Virginia; 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. 246. A resolution authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Chamber of the United States Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MOYNIHAN (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MACK, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. Con. Res. 103. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress in support of the recommendations of the International Commission of Jurists on Tibet and on United States policy with regard to Tibet; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. GORTON, Mr. WELLSTONE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CHAFEE, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. ROBB, Mr. INOUE, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. BUMPERS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. KOHL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CLELAND, and Mr. MOYNIHAN):

S. 2152. A bill to establish a program to provide credit and other assistance for encouraging microenterprises in developing countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MICROCREDIT FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY ACT OF 1998

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce a bill today which is cosponsored by at least 20 of my colleagues in the Senate, a bipartisan offering on an issue which I came to be familiar with over 10 years ago. I traveled to the country of Bangladesh. It is not exactly on the itinerary of favorite congressional trips because it is a country which, although it is large and very interesting, has had its share of misfortune. It seems whenever any natural disaster would strike in the world it would stop in Bangladesh. We, of course, conjure an image in our mind of people who have suffered through typhoons and tornadoes and flooding and all sorts of deprivation. It is a very poor country.

Then Congressman, the late Mike Synar, and I went to Bangladesh. One of the reasons we went was to explore an issue which we had heard a lot about. There is an institution created in Bangladesh known as the Grameen Bank. Grameen means "people's bank." It is an extraordinary institution because it is an unusual bank; it is