

made that decision, fine. If we disagree, let us say so. But understand that she has to make it.

Prosecutors have enormous power. The trust and the confidence of the American people in our justice system would evaporate if this Attorney General or any Attorney General allowed politics to dictate decisions like these. I don't think she is doing that. I believe, this is confirmed by listening to even some in the Department of Justice who have disagreed with her decisions. They have all said, unanimously, that they understand she is looking at this very, very honestly. She has made her decisions very directly and very honestly.

People from both the FBI and within the Department of Justice, when asked specifically, "Was anybody put off limits? Was any part of the investigation put off limits?", they said unanimously nothing was put off limits. They were not told to put anybody or any transaction or any activity off limits.

So I think we will see more on this as days go on. I think the meeting this morning was a valuable one and I commend my friend from Utah for having the meeting. Many aspects of this we agree on. Some aspects we may disagree on. But I state to my friend from Utah he has been fair and open with us on this. If we have disagreements, they are honest disagreements. But he and I will continue to work closely on this because in the end what we want to see, whatever these questions are, is that we have them resolved fairly. And I think we agree on that. I yield the floor.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, if I can take just another minute?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, you know, by some counts—some can count as many as nine requests for preliminary reviews in this matter. We are now almost 2 to 3 years down the line. The evidence is growing cold. The witnesses are absenting the country. We have evidence that cannot be found. And we had investigators telling us today that while one part of the Justice Department is going this way, another part of the Department is going another way, they weren't meeting, and that they were not able to put these threads of evidence together because of the type of restrictions and limitations that were placed on them.

It is true that they said that they could investigate anybody, but thus far it seems as though the White House and the DNC leadership, the people who would have known who committed crimes were off limits or at least have not been fully examined. That is one reason why Mr. LaBella, Mr. Freeh, and Mr. Desarno—top people in this Government—have suggested that we should have an independent counsel.

I think the Attorney General has to make a decision here one way or the other. If she makes a decision to just have a limited, narrowly appointed

independent counsel or counsels under these circumstances, then I have to say that is going to be a catastrophic event.

I am hopeful that she will do the right thing within a very limited period of time. She does not have to use the 90 days that she has requested. She has had years now to make determinations in these matters, and she ought to make them, and she ought to make them one way or the other—to her praise or condemnation. I personally believe that she will, within a short period of time. I pray with all my heart that she will, because I like her personally, and I don't feel good about standing up and disagreeing with her. I would like to have a good relationship with her and would naturally like her to be a great Attorney General. But she has to face these problems and she has to face that statute and she can no longer ignore it. Even if she does not agree with the mandatory part of that statute, which appears to be the case, although she is willing to relook at it, she has to agree that there is a whopping conflict of interest here, both an actual conflict and an appearance of a conflict, which necessitates the requests for the appointment of a broad-based independent counsel in these matters to get this finally behind us. And I hope that we can do that.

I apologize to my colleague from Kentucky for interrupting this debate, but this is important to do. I apologize to him at this time and I yield the floor.

#### 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-6509. A communication from the Senior Attorney of the Copyright Office, Library of Congress, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Copyright Office's report under the Freedom of Information Act for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-6510. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, notification that the Department is allotting emergency funds made available under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 to eleven States; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-6511. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Secretary's report on Head Start programs for fiscal years 1994 through 1997; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-6512. A communication from the Director of the Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pediculide Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use; Final Monograph; Technical Amendment" (RIN0910-AA01) received on August 18, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-6513. A communication from the Acting Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant

to law, the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management's report on activities and expenditures for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6514. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna" (I.D. 070698D) received on August 18, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6515. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Papayas Grown in Hawaii; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket FV98-928-1 FR) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6516. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Raisins Produced From Grapes Grown in California; Increase in Desirable Carryout Used to Compute Trade Demand" (Docket FV98-989-2 FIR) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6517. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Exemption from Area No. 2 Handling Regulation for Potatoes Shipped for Experimentation and the Manufacture or Conversion into Specified Products" (Docket FV98-948-2 IFR) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6518. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Brucellosis in Cattle; State and Area Classifications; Florida" (Docket 98-014-2) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6519. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mediterranean Fruit Fly; Removal of Quarantine Area" (Docket 97-056-15) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6520. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mediterranean Fruit Fly; Addition to Quarantined Areas" (Docket 98-083-1) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6521. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mexican Fruit Fly Regulations; Removal of Regulated Area" (Docket 98-084-1) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6522. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Validated Brucellosis-Free States; Alabama" (Docket 98-086-1) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6523. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mediterranean Fruit Fly; Addition to Quarantined Areas" (Docket 98-083-2) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6524. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of the extension of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12924; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6525. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the national emergency with respect to Iraq (Executive Order 12722); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6526. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice that the President has taken additional steps regarding the national emergency with respect to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Executive Order 12865); to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6527. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Portfolio Reengineering: Notice of Fiscal Year 1998 Transition Program Guidelines" (FR-4162-N-03) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6528. A communication from the Acting Chairman of the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's annual report for calendar year 1997; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-6529. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting, notice of military retirements; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6530. A communication from the Chief of the Programs and Legislation Division, Department of the Air Force, transmitting, pursuant to law, notice of a cost comparison of the Military Housing Maintenance function at Travis Air Force Base, California; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6531. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Quality Assurance Among North Atlantic Treaty Organization Countries" (Case 97-D038) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6532. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Letter of Offer and Acceptance" (Case 98-D015) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6533. A communication from the Director of Defense Procurement, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Waiver of 10 U.S.C. 2534—United Kingdom" (Case 98-D016) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6534. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Personnel Records and

Training" (RIN3206-AH94) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6535. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report of the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund for Fiscal Year 1997"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6536. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Management and Budget and Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act Annual Report and the Department's report under the Inspector General Act for the period April 1, 1997 through September 30, 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6537. A communication from the Interim District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a copy of the Auditor's report entitled "Analysis of Projected Fiscal Year 1999 Dedicated Tax Revenue for the Washington Convention Center Authority"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6538. A communication from the Executive Director of the Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of additions and deletions to the Committee's Procurement List dated August 10, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6539. A communication from the Manager of Employee Benefits and Payroll, AgriBank Farm Credit Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual financial report of the Retirement Plan for the Employees of the Seventh Farm Credit District for fiscal year 1997; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6540. A communication from the Chief of Staff of the Office of the Commissioner of Social Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Old-Aged, Survivors, and Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income for the Aged, Blind, and Disabled; Standards of Conduct for Claimant Representatives" (RIN0960-AD73) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6541. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Former Indian Reservations in Oklahoma" (Notice 98-45) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6542. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taxation of Fringe Benefits" (Rev. Rul. 98-40) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6543. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Effective Date of Consolidated Overall Foreign Loss Provisions" (Notice 98-40) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6544. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Disaster Relief" (Announcement 98-81) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6545. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Estate and Gift Tax Marital Deduc-

tion" (RIN1545-AU27) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6546. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Last In, First-Out Inventories" (Rev. Rul. 98-42) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6547. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding the "applicable percentage" of depletion for oil and gas produced from marginal properties (Notice 98-42) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6548. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding the inflation adjustment factor to be used in computing the enhanced oil recovery credit (Notice 98-41) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6549. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rewards for Information Relating to Violations of Internal Revenue Laws" (RIN1545-AU85) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6550. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Returns Relating to Higher Education Tuition and Related Expenses" (Notice 98-46) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6551. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the cumulative report on rescissions and deferrals dated August 12, 1998; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, to the Committee on the Budget, to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to the Committee on Finance, to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-6552. A communication from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's report entitled "Sequestration Update Report for Fiscal Year 1999"; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on the Budget and to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-6553. A communication from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology, transmitting, Selected Acquisition Reports for the quarter ending June 30, 1998; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6554. A communication from the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule to Determine the Plant 'Pediocactus winkleri' (Winkler Cactus) to be a Threatened Species" (RIN1018-AC09) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6555. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans;

California State Implementation Plan Revision; Ventura County Air Pollution Control District" (FRL6142-3) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6556. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Petroleum Refineries" (FRL6145-5) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6557. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Streamlining the State Sewage Sludge Management Regulations" (FRL6145-8) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6558. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Triasulfuron; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL6023-8) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6559. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision, South Coast Air Quality Management District, Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District" (FRL6140-6) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6560. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fenpropathrin; Extension of Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL6020-2) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6561. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Uses of Certain Chemical Substances" (FRL5788-7) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6562. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Maintenance Plan Revisions; Ohio" (FRL6147-9) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6563. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Georgia: Approval of Revisions to the Georgia State Implementation Plan" (FRL6143-7) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6564. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Washington: Withdrawal of Immediate Final Rule for Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Manage-

ment Program Revision" (FRL6147-3) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6565. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Zinc Phosphide; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL6021-6) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6566. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Consumer and Commercial Products: Schedule for Regulation" (FRL6149-6) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6567. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants from Secondary Lead Smelting" (FRL6145-6) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6568. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Architectural Coatings" (FRL6149-7) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6569. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Consumer Products" (FRL6149-8) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6570. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Volatile Organic Compound Emission Standards for Automobile Refinish Coatings" (FRL6149-5) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6571. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Triclopyr; Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL6021-5) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6572. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Deltamethrin; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL5795-2) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6573. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Control of Volatile Organic Compounds From Sources that Store and Handle Jet Fuel" (FRL6144-5) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6574. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection

Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of New Jersey; Disapproval of the 15 Percent Rate of Progress Plan" (FRL6151-2) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6575. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New Jersey; Motor Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program" (FRL6151-4) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6576. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidelines for the Feather and Down Products Industry" received on August 18, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6577. A communication from the Acting Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trade Regulation Rule Regarding Use of Negative Option Plans by Sellers in Commerce" received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6578. A communication from the Acting Associate Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Partnering for Construction Contracts" received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6579. A communication from the Acting Associate Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mentor-Protege" received on August 18, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6580. A communication from the Acting Associate Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Contracting by Negotiation" received on August 18, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6581. A communication from the Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Whiting Closure for the Catcher/Processor Sector" (I.D. 072798A) received on August 18, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6582. A communication from the Acting Director of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Technical Amendment" (I.D. 062298C) received on August 18, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6583. A communication from the Assistant Administrator of the National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "General Grant Administration Terms and Conditions of the Coastal Ocean Program" (RIN0648-ZA47) received on August 18, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6584. A communication from the Assistant Administrator of the National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Marine Sanctuary Program Regulations; Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Regulations; Anchoring on Tortugas Bank" (RIN0648-AK45) received on August 18, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6585. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Provide for Operation of Unlicensed NII Devices in the 5 GHz Frequency Range" (Docket 96-102) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6586. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations; (Redwood, Mississippi)" (Docket 96-231) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6587. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Old Forge and Newport Village, New York)" (Docket 97-179) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6588. A communication from the Associate Managing Director for Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Warrenton and Enfield, North Carolina and La Crosse and Powhatan, Virginia)" (Docket 97-229) received on August 19, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6589. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Advance Notice of Arrival: Vessels Bound for Ports and Places in the United States" (Docket 97-067) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6590. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations; St. Johns River, Jacksonville, Florida" (Docket 07-98-033) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6591. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; AlliedSignal Inc. TFE731 Series Turbofan Engines" (Docket 97-ANE-51-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6592. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" (Docket 29295) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6593. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" (Docket 29294) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6594. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Tioga, ND" (Docket 98-AGL-34) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6595. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Class E Airspace; Spencer, IA" (Docket 98-ACE-31) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6596. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Class E Airspace; Forest City, IA" (Docket 98-ACE-30) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6597. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Airbus Model A340 Series Airplanes" (Docket 97-NM-340-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6598. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Bombardier Model CL-215-6B11 (CL-415 Variant) Series Airplanes" (Docket 98-NM-03-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6599. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: General Electric Company CF6-80A3 Series Turbofan Engines" (Docket 98-ANE-35-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6600. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Bombardier-Rotax GmbH 912 F Series Reciprocating Engines" (Docket 98-ANE-26-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6601. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Cessna Aircraft Company Model 172R Airplanes" (Docket 98-CE-60-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6602. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Class E Airspace; Denison, IA" (Docket 98-ACE-29) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6603. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Grassy Sound Channel, Middle Township, New Jersey" (Docket 05-98-015) received on August 13, 1998; to the

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6604. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulations; West Palm Beach, Florida" (Docket 07-98-049) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6605. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Jetstream Model 301 Airplanes" (Docket 98-CE-54-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6606. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Model 750 Citation X Series Airplanes" (Docket 98-NM-208-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6607. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Models PC-12 and PC-12/45 Airplanes" (Docket 98-CE-40-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6608. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; CFM International CFM56-3, -3B, -3C, -5, -5B, and -5C Series Turbofan Engines" (Docket 97-ANE-54-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6609. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-215-1A10 and CL-215-6B11 Series Airplanes" (Docket 98-NM-05-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6610. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Model EMB-145 Series Airplanes" (Docket 97-NM-279-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6611. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Harmonization of Miscellaneous Rotorcraft Regulations" (Docket 28929) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6612. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Class E Airspace; Barrow, AK" (Docket 98-AAL-7) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6613. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class D Airspace; Colorado Springs USAF Academy Airstrip, CO" (Docket 98-ANM-07) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6614. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument

Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" (Docket 29293) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6615. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Class E Airspace; Dunkirk, NY" (Docket 98-AEA-10) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6616. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Aerospaciale Model ATR42 and ATR72 Series Airplanes" (Docket 98-NM-146-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6617. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Model BAe 146 and Model Avro 146-RJ Series Airplanes" (Docket 97-NM-128-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6618. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; de Havilland Model DHC-8-100, -200, and -300 Series Airplanes" (Docket 98-NM-70-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6619. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-2B19 (Regional Jet Series 100 and 200) Airplanes" (Docket 97-NM-116-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6620. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Sabb Model 2000 Series Airplanes" (Docket 98-NM-213-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6621. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A. (CASA) Model CN-235 Series Airplanes" (Docket 98-NM-160-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6622. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Sabb Model SABB 2000 Series Airplanes" (Docket 98-NM-151-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6623. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747 Series Airplanes" (Docket 98-NM-180-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6624. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Learjet Model 60 Airplanes" (Docket 98-NM-227-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6625. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Britten-Norman Ltd. BN-2, BN-2A, BN-2B, and BN-2T Series Airplanes" (Docket 97-CE-112-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6626. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Model PC-7 Airplanes" (Docket 98-CE-30-AD) received on August 13, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6627. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Glaser-Dirks Flugzeugbau GmbH Model DG-400 Gliders" (Docket 98-CE-07-AD) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6628. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Alexander Schleicher Segelflugzeugbau Model ASW-19 Sailplanes" (Docket 98-CE-05-AD) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6629. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class E Airspace; Fortuna, CA" (Docket 98-AWP-3) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6630. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Robinson Helicopter Company (RHC) Model R44 Helicopters" (Docket 98-SW-25-AD) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6631. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A310 and A300-600 Series Airplanes" (Docket 98-NM-128-AD) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6632. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A319, A320, A321, A330, and A340 Series Airplanes Equipped with AlliedSignal RIA-35-B Instrument Landing System Receivers" (Docket 98-NM-154-AD) received on August 17, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6633. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Bag On-Off Switches" (RIN 2127-AH25) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6634. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" (Docket 29300) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6635. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the re-

port of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments" (Docket 29299) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6636. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Hartzell Propeller Inc. HC-E4A-3(A, I, J) Series Propellers" (Docket 98-ANE-53-AD) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6637. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F28 Mark 1000, 2000, 3000, and 4000 Series Airplanes" (Docket 97-NM-287-AD) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6638. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F28 Mark 0070 and Mark 0100 Series Airplanes" (Docket 97-NM-248-AD) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6639. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9-80 Series Airplanes and Model MD-88 Airplanes" (Docket 97-NM-20-AD) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6640. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removal of Class D Airspace and Class E Airspace; Willoughby, OH" (Docket 98-AGL-36) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6641. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Akron, CO" (Docket 98-ANM-10) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6642. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Pueblo, CO" (Docket 98-ANM-01) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6643. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class E Airspace; Superior, WI" (Docket 98-AGL-38) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6644. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class E Airspace; Moorhead, MN" (Docket 98-AGL-40) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6645. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of Class E Airspace; Glenwood, MN" (Docket 98-AGL-39) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6646. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Slayton, MN" (Docket 98-AGL-35) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6647. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of VOR Federal Airway; WA" (Docket 97-ANM-23) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6648. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Class E Airspace; Kearney, NE" (Docket 98-ACE-34) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6649. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Class E Airspace; Beatrice, NE" (Docket 98-ACE-32) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6650. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Class E Airspace; Ottumwa, IA" (Docket 98-ACE-27) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6651. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establish Class E Airspace; Davenport, IA" (Docket 97-ACE-21) received on August 20, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 389. A bill to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-299).

#### 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. GRAMS:

S. 2431. A bill to provide support for the human rights and treatment of international victims of torture; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BOND, Mr. KERREY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. REED, and Mr. FRIST):

S. 2432. A bill to support programs of grants to States to address the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. D'AMATO:

S. 2433. A bill to protect consumers and financial institutions by preventing personal financial information from being obtained

from financial institutions under false pretenses; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 2434. A bill to amend chapter 1 of title 9, United States Code, to provide for greater fairness in the arbitration process relating to motor vehicle franchise contracts; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ALLARD:

S. 2435. A bill to permit the denial of airport access to certain air carriers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. THOMPSON):

S. Res. 270. A resolution to express the sense of the Senate concerning actions that the President of the United States should take to resolve the dispute between the Air Line Pilots Association and Northwest Airlines; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. BOND, Mr. KERRY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. REED, and Mr. FRIST):

S. 2432. A bill to support programs of grants to States to address the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

#### ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998

• Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, ten years ago Congress passed the Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act, referred to as the "Tech Act". My friend, Senator HARKIN, was the principal sponsor in the Senate. I was the principal sponsor in the House. Both Houses of Congress worked together and passed the same legislation on the same day. Once again, Senator HARKIN and I, with our colleague Senator BOND, joined forces to draft the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (ATA), which we are introducing today with the co-sponsorship of Senators KENNEDY, FRIST, COLLINS, MCCONNELL, REED, and KERRY. Once again, we are working toward expeditious consideration of legislation that promotes access to assistive technology for individuals with disabilities. With the assistance of our colleagues in the Senate and the other body, I am confident that the ATA will become law. The ATA authorizes funding for assistive technology activities for fiscal years 1999 through 2004.

The ATA builds on the success of its predecessor, the Tech Act. The Tech Act sunsets September 30, 1998. This will result in the termination of federal assistance to nine states for promoting access to assistive technology

for individuals with disabilities, and place the remainder of the states in jeopardy of diminished or no funding during or after fiscal year 1999.

Through the ATA the Senate has the opportunity to reaffirm the federal role of promoting access to assistive technology devices and services for individuals with disabilities. The bill allows States flexibility in responding to the assistive technology needs of their citizens with disabilities, and does not disrupt the ongoing work of the 50 State assistive technology programs funded under the Tech Act.

These programs make a difference. Access to assistive technology for an individual with a disability means independence, ability to work or attend school, and the opportunity to participate in community life. Lack of access to assistive technology means dependence and isolation.

In my State of Vermont, Lynne Cleveland is the project director for our Tech Project. Lynne testified before the Labor and Human Resources Committee on April 29, 1998 on the impact of the Vermont Tech Project on the lives of Vermonters with disabilities. For example, one of the many things the Vermont Tech Project supports is a rehabilitation engineering technician program, the only one in the nation, at Vermont Technical College. Graduates of the program work for schools, non-profit agencies, state agencies, and vendors helping others make appropriate, cost-effective decisions regarding assistive technology for individuals with disabilities and educating others about the need for and value of the individual with a disability having a central role in such decisions.

The Vermont Tech Project touches and changes the lives of individual Vermonters of all ages and walks of life. For Bill, a man in his mid-thirties who suffered a stroke, the Tech Project helped secure assistive technology that enabled him to obtain employment designing web pages. Equally important to Bill is that assistive technology enables him to talk again with his children. For Ray, who lost his vision in mid-life, acquiring assistive technology has allowed him to continue as a snowplow dispatcher for the State of Vermont. For Ty, a teenager born with a visual impairment, access to assistive technology means she can pursue her goal of becoming a lawyer. For Annie, a first grader with Downs Syndrome, having assistive technology means that she can use the computer in a regular education classroom, learning and playing games with her classmates. For Lillian, a senior citizen, access to and training on a closed circuit television, enables her to stay in her home rather than living in a nursing home. The Vermont Tech Project has touched each of these individuals by working with others to change policies, improve coordination, pool resources, and educate people about the benefits of assistive technology.