

Whereas, modern biotechnology is being used to increase the productivity of crops and livestock, to improve the quality of life by developing new high-yielding crops that require fewer inputs and conserve natural resources, to increase the food supply for a rapidly increasing human population, to produce more nutritious foods with longer shelf lives, and to continue to provide consumers with high-quality, low-cost food products; and

Whereas, it is estimated that in 1999 about 100 million acres worldwide were planted with transgenic varieties of more than 20 crop species and the value of transgenic crops grew from \$75 million in 1995 to \$1.64 billion in 1998; and

Whereas, the National Research Council has stated that bioengineered crops should provide no greater risk to the environment than those crops using traditional biotechnology; and

Whereas, further advances in modern biotechnology may result in crops, for example, that combat vitamin and mineral deficiencies that afflict hundreds of millions of people worldwide or that can be used to produce life-saving vaccines and biodegradable plastics; and

Whereas, a 1999 report of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics concluded that there is compelling moral imperative to enable emerging economies to evaluate the use of modern biotechnology to combat hunger and poverty; and

Whereas, a September 1999 Gallup Poll found that Americans most familiar with modern biotechnology are also the most supportive of its use to improve our food supply and that more than three-fourths of Americans are confident in the federal government to ensure the safety of the nation's food supply; and

Whereas, federal law requires that all foods and food ingredients, whether produced by traditional or modern biotechnology, must be extensively reviewed for safety by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and meet the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act before they can be sold to consumers; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Twentieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2000, the Senate concurring, supports the responsible use of modern biotechnology to benefit the people of Hawaii, the nation, and the world, and the global environment through high-yield agricultural production requiring the reduced use of farm inputs and acreage; and be it further

Resolved, that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the members of the Hawaii U.S. Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Director of the United States Food and Drug Administration, the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Chairperson of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the American Crop Protection Association, the Western Crop Protection Association, the Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, the Grocery Manufacturers of America, the Hawaii Food Industry Association, the Hawaii Food Manufacturers Association, the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, and the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center.

POM-527. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas rel-

ative to amending the Constitution to restrict the ability of the federal judiciary to mandate any state or subdivision thereof to levy or increase taxes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5059

Whereas, Unfunded mandates by the United States Congress and the executive branch of the federal government increasingly strain already tight state government budgets if the states are to comply; and

Whereas, To further compound this assault on state revenues, federal district courts, with the blessing of the United States Supreme Court, continue to order states to levy or increase taxes to supplement their budgets to comply with federal mandates; and

Whereas, The court's actions are an intrusion into a legitimate legislative debate over state spending priorities and not a response to a constitutional directive; and

Whereas, The Constitution of the United States of America does not allow, nor do the states need, judicial intervention requiring tax levies or increases as solutions to potentially serious problems; and

Whereas, This usurpation of legislative authority begins a process that over time could threaten the fundamental concept of separation of powers that is precious to the preservation of the form of our government embodied by the Constitution of the United States of America; and

Whereas, Fifteen states, including Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee and Utah, have petitioned the United States Congress to propose an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America that reads as follows: "Neither the Supreme Court nor any inferior court of the United States shall have the power to instruct or order a state or political subdivision thereof, or any official of such state or political subdivision, to levy or increase taxes."; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Representatives concurring therein: That the Kansas Legislature respectfully requests and petitions the Congress of the United States to propose submission to the states for their ratification an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America to restrict the ability of the United States Supreme Court or any inferior court of the United States to mandate any state or political subdivision of the state to levy or increase taxes; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State is hereby directed to send enrolled copies of this section to the President of the United States; the President pro tempore of the United States Senate; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; each member of the Kansas Congressional Delegation; each member of the United States Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit and all federal district court judges for the district of Kansas; and each member of the Kansas Supreme Court and the Kansas Court of Appeals and all Kansas district court judges.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committee were submitted:

By Mr. WARNER for the Committee on Armed Services.

General John A. Gordon, United States Air Force, to be Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, Department of Energy.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that con-

firmation be subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army as Dean of the Academic Board, United States Military Academy, and for appointment to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 4335:

To be brigadier general

Col. Daniel J. Kaufman, 3704

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Navy to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Robert J. Natter, 0422

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

By Mr. MURKOWSKI for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mildred Spiewak Dresselhaus, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Science, Department of Energy.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that she be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KERREY:

S. 2616. A bill for the relief of Luis A. Gonzalez and Virginia Aguilla Gonzalez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. JEFFORDS):

S. 2617. A bill to lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2618. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to sell certain land to the town of Kingston, Nevada, for use as an emergency medical air evacuation site and for other public uses; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. ROBB, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2619. A bill to provide for drug-free prisons; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2620. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2000 Vassar Street in Reno, Nevada, as the "Barbara F. Vucanovich Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. L. CHAFFEE, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KOHL, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2621. A bill to continue the current prohibition of military cooperation with the armed forces of the Republic of Indonesia until the President determines and certifies to the Congress that certain conditions are being met; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):