

## Committee Meetings

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Agriculture:* Ordered reported the following measures: H. Res. 261, Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the efforts of organizations such as Second Harvest to provide emergency food assistance to hungry people in the United States, and encouraging all Americans to provide volunteer services and other support for local antihunger advocacy efforts and hunger relief charities, including food banks, food rescue organizations, food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters; H. Res. 481, Recognizing the establishment of Hunters for the Hungry programs across the United States and the contributions of those programs to efforts to decrease hunger and help feed those in need; H.R. 2119, amended, To provide for the use by the State of North Carolina of Federal lands, improvements, equipment, and resource materials at the Oxford Research Station in Granville County, North Carolina; H.R. 2984, To amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act to remove the requirement that processors be members of an agency administering a marketing order applicable to pears; H.R. 3372, To designate the facility of the Agriculture Research Service of the Department of Agriculture located at State Highway 26 West in Poplarville, Mississippi, as the “Thad Cochran Southern Horticultural Laboratory;” H.R. 3514, amended, Pennsylvania National Forest Improvement Act of 2003; S. 33, To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other land in the Ozark-St. Francis and Ouachita National Forests and to use funds derived from the sale or exchange to acquire, construct, or improve administrative sites; H.R. 4569, To provide for the development of a national plan for the control and management of Sudden Oak Death, a tree disease caused by the fungus-like pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*; H.R. 4620, amended, To confirm the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commodity Credit Corporation to enter into memorandums of understanding with a State regarding the collection of approved State commodity assessments on behalf of the State from the proceeds of marketing assistance loans; H.R. 5042, To amend the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to ensure that the dependents of employees of the Forest Service stationed in Puerto Rico receive a high-quality elementary and secondary education; and S. 1814, To transfer federal lands between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior.

### DIPLOMA MILLS

*Committee on Education and the Workforce:* Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness held a hearing entitled “Current Safeguards Protecting Taxpayers Against Diploma Mills.” Testimony was heard from Robert Cramer, Managing Director, Of-

fice of Special Investigations, GAO; and public witnesses.

### MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2004

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials approved for full Committee action, as amended, H.R. 4940, Municipal Solid Waste Responsibility Act of 2004.

### PUBLIC HEALTH—FDA’S ROLE IN PROTECTING

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “FDA’s Role in Protecting the Public Health: Examining FDA’s Review of Safety and Efficacy Concerns in Anti-Depressant Use by Children.” Testimony was heard from the following officials of the FDA, Department of Health and Human Services: Andrew Mosholder, M.D., Paul Seligman, M.D., Robert Temple, M.D., Thomas Laughen, M.D., Tarek Hammad, M.D., and James Knudsen, M.D.

### ENCOURAGING SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Encouraging Small Business Growth and Access to Capital.” Testimony was heard from Alan L. Beller, Director, Division of Corporation Finance, SEC; and public witnesses.

### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PIRACY

*Committee on Government Reform:* Held a hearing entitled “Intellectual Property Piracy: Are We Doing Enough to Protect U.S. Innovation Abroad?” Testimony was heard from Representative Simmons; Loren Yager, Director, International Affairs and Trade, GAO; and public witnesses.

### U.S. SECURITY POLICY IN AFGHANISTAN ON EVE OF NATIONAL ELECTIONS

*Committee on International Relations:* Held a hearing on United States Security Policy in Afghanistan on the Eve of National Elections. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Peter W. Rodman, Assistant Secretary, International Security Affairs; and LTG Walter L. Sharp, USA, Director, Strategic Plans and Policy, J-5, The Joint Staff; and Robert B. Charles, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Department of State.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security approved for full Committee action, as amended, the following bills: H.R. 4547, Defending America’s Most Vulnerable Safe Access to Drug Treatment and Child Protection Act of 2004; S. 1194, Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2003; and H.R. 4264, Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2004.

**OVERSIGHT—ENDANGERED SPECIES**

*Committee on Resources:* Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans held an oversight hearing on the Upcoming Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Testimony was heard from. Craig Manson, Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior; and Rebecca Lent, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Fisheries, NOAA, Department of Commerce.

**CONFERENCE REPORT—WORKING FAMILIES TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2004**

*Committee on Rules:* Granted, by voice vote, a rule waiving all points against the conference report to accompany H.R. 1308, Working Families Tax Relief Act of 2004, and against its consideration. The rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read. Testimony was heard from Representative Weller.

**RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY—REQUESTING HHS TO TRANSMIT TO THE HOUSE DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE COST OF MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG LEGISLATION**

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Ordered reported adversely H. Res. 776, Of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to estimates and analyses of the cost of the Medicare prescription drug legislation.

**SELECT TAX ISSUES**

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures held a hearing on Select Tax Issues. Testimony was heard from Representatives Capps, Isakson, Larson of (CT), Simmons, Wilson (SC), Turner (OH), McCarthy (MO), Neugebauer,

Weldon (PA), Kucinich, Beauprez, Ryan (OH), Blackburn, Emanuel, Sessions and Lofgren.

**Joint Meetings****WORKING FAMILIES TAX RELIEF ACT**

*Conferees* agreed to file a conference report on the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 1308, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to end certain abusive tax practices, to provide tax relief and simplification.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2004**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

**Senate**

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Water, to hold oversight hearings to examine State and private programs for sage grouse conservation, 9 a.m., SD-406.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* to hold hearings to examine the Protocol Amending the Convention Between the United States of America and the Kingdom of the Netherlands for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income (including exchange of notes with attached Understanding), signed at Washington on March 8, 2004 (the "Protocol") (Treaty Doc. 108-25), and the Second Protocol Amending the Convention Between the United States of America and Barbados for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income Signed on December 31, 1984, signed at Washington on July 14, 2004; including an exchange of notes with attached Understandings (Treaty Doc. 108-26), 9:30 a.m., SD-419.

**House**

*Committee on Appropriations,* Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs, on Iraq Reconstruction Program, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.