

EC-6594. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bacillus Thuringiensis VIP3A Insect Control Protein and the Genetic Material Necessary for its Production in Cotton; Extension of a Temporary Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 7772-7) received on April 25, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6595. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Georgia: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision" (FRL No. 8161-2) received on April 25, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6596. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "OMB Approvals Under the Paperwork Reduction Act; Technical Amendment" (FRL No. 8161-7) received on April 25, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6597. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Technical Amendments to the Highway and Nonroad Diesel Regulations" (FRL No. 8161-9) received on April 25, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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. LUGAR:

S. 2683. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2-cyanopyridine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 2684. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Mixed Xylidines; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 2685. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain textured rolled glass sheets; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2686. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2687. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to stabilize the amount of the Medicare part B premium; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ISAKSON:

S. 2688. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage private philanthropy; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 2689. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase certain alternative fuel and vehicle tax incentives and to eliminate certain tax incentives for major integrated oil companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. Res. 456. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the discussion by the North Atlantic Council of secure, sustainable, and reliable sources of energy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. CRAIG, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 457. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the citizens of the United States and the United States Government have serious concerns regarding the release of convicted terrorist and murderer Mohammad Ali Hammadi by the Government of Germany; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. SANTORUM, and Mr. TALENT):

S. Res. 458. A resolution affirming that statements of national unity, including the National Anthem, should be recited or sung in English; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DODD:

S. Con. Res. 90. A concurrent resolution acknowledging African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade in all of the Americas with an emphasis on descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean, recognizing the injustices suffered by these African descendants, and recommending that the United States and the international community work to improve the situation of Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. Con. Res. 91. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the President should posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Leroy Robert "Satchel" Paige; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 283

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 283, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit for the transportation of food for charitable purposes.

S. 331

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 331, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an assured adequate level of funding for veterans health care.

S. 368

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 368, a bill to provide assistance to reduce teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases and to support healthy adolescent development.

S. 619

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr.

REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 619, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 843

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 843, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to combat autism through research, screening, intervention and education.

S. 1035

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) were added as cosponsors of S. 1035, a bill to authorize the presentation of commemorative medals on behalf of Congress to Native Americans who served as Code Talkers during foreign conflicts in which the United States was involved during the 20th century in recognition of the service of those Native Americans to the United States.

S. 1086

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1086, a bill to improve the national program to register and monitor individuals who commit crimes against children or sex offenses.

S. 1358

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1358, a bill to protect scientific integrity in Federal research and policymaking.

S. 1774

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1774, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the expansion, intensification, and coordination of the activities of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute with respect to research on pulmonary hypertension.

S. 1998

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1998, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance protections relating to the reputation and meaning of the Medal of Honor and other military decorations and awards, and for other purposes.

S. 2025

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2025, a bill to promote the national security and stability of the United States economy by reducing the dependence of the United States on oil through the use of alternative fuels and new technology, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2025, *supra*.

S. 2140

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2140, a bill to enhance protection of children from sexual exploitation by strengthening section 2257 of title 18, United States Code, requiring producers of sexually explicit material to keep and permit inspection of records regarding the age of performers, and for other purposes.

S. 2305

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2305, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the amendments made by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requiring documentation evidencing citizenship or nationality as a condition for receipt of medical assistance under the Medicaid program.

S. 2321

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2321, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of Louis Braille.

S. 2392

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2392, a bill to promote the empowerment of women in Afghanistan.

S. 2416

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2416, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the scope of programs of education for which accelerated payments of educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill may be used, and for other purposes.

S. 2453

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2453, a bill to establish procedures for the review of electronic surveillance programs.

S. 2557

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2557, a bill to improve competition in the oil and gas industry, to strengthen antitrust enforcement with regard to industry mergers, and for other purposes.

S. 2636

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2636, a bill to provide an immediate Federal income tax rebate to help taxpayers with higher fuel costs, and for other purposes.

S. 2653

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.

SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2653, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to make efforts to reduce telephone rates for Armed Forces personnel deployed overseas.

S. 2661

At the request of Mr. MARTINEZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2661, a bill to provide for a plebiscite in Puerto Rico on the status of the territory.

S. RES. 313

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 313, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that a National Methamphetamine Prevention Week should be established to increase awareness of methamphetamine and to educate the public on ways to help prevent the use of that damaging narcotic.

S. RES. 436

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 436, a resolution urging the Federation Internationale de Football Association to prevent persons or groups representing the Islamic Republic of Iran from participating in sanctioned soccer matches.

S. RES. 442

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 442, a resolution expressing the deep disappointment of the Senate with respect to the election of Iran to a leadership position in the United Nations Disarmament Commission and requesting the President to withhold funding to the United Nations unless credible reforms are made.

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 442, *supra*.

AMENDMENT NO. 3599

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3599 proposed to H.R. 4939, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3642

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3642 proposed to H.R. 4939, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3650

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3650 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4939, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for

the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3656

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3656 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4939, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3664

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3664 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4939, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3666

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3666 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4939, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3679

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3679 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4939, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3693

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3693 proposed to H.R. 4939, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3694

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3694 proposed to H.R. 4939, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3695

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3695 proposed to H.R. 4939, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3697

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3697 proposed to H.R. 4939, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for

the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3715

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3715 proposed to H.R. 4939, a bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2686. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, today Senator INOUE and I introduce the Communications Act of 2006. Just over a month ago, the Senate Commerce Committee concluded a series of 15 hearings on the state of our Nation's communications laws. We looked at what changes in the law would be required to spur innovation, encourage competition, and provide better service at a lower price for consumers. Senator INOUE and I, and the members of our committee heard from dozens of witnesses and still more who have offered comments and suggested language. Our staffs met with literally hundreds of people representing every point of view.

The measure we introduce today is a working draft intended to stimulate discussion and is open for comments and suggestions for change. It attempts to strike a balance between competing industries, consumer groups and local government. Both Senator INOUE and I may propose additional changes based on comments offered by our members or interested parties. We will hold two hearings to take testimony on the draft bill and will listen to proposed changes. It is our hope that through a process of collaboration, we can draft a bill that represents a bipartisan consensus.

The bill includes elements from a number of bills introduced by members of our committee from both sides of the aisle. The Call Home Act that Senator INOUE and I introduced last week would allow the FCC to take any action short of price regulation to reduce rates for members of our Armed Forces who call home. The measure includes thirteen cosponsors from our committee and another twenty-five cosponsors from the Senate at large. The Call Home Act has been endorsed by twenty-five military and veterans organizations.

The overarching theme of the bill we introduce today is deployment of broadband nationwide. Today the United States is less than 16th in adoption of broadband worldwide. We are not only behind most of the developed world, we even lag behind some of the less developed parts of the globe. To

address this broadband gap, the bill we introduce today will allow local governments to offer their own broadband service, so long as they do not compete unfairly with the private sector. The provision is based largely on Senator MCCAIN's and LAUTENBERG's bill, S. 1294, cosponsored by Senator KERRY, but includes elements to protect the private sector from unfair government competition from Senator ENSIGN's bill, S. 1504 cosponsored by MCCAIN, LOTT, DEMINT, and VITTER.

Senator MCCAIN was also very helpful in crafting the interoperability section of the bill. After Hurricane Katrina and later Wilma and Rita, the committee held a series of hearings on problems communications companies had in restoring service and the difficulties first responders had in talking to one another even when service had been fully restored. During those difficult times, Senators LOTT and VITTER played an important role in highlighting the importance of interoperability in times of crisis. As part of the reconciliation bill adopted last December, this committee addressed the interoperability problem by dedicating \$1 billion to interoperability programs. However, because of the Byrd rule, it was not possible to provide guidance on how the money should be spent. The interoperability bill we introduce today adopts many of the recommendations offered by a variety of groups from the 911 Commission to the recent White House report. It embraces key concepts such as Planning and interoperable equipment grants which have been discussed with the Department of Homeland Security and various public safety groups.

The bill will also create prepositioned technology caches in every State in the Union with some redundant regional caches for national emergencies—an idea offered by Senator INOUE and his staff. These caches will include equipment like satellite telephones that work even when towers and power lines have been destroyed.

Senator KERRY has also been involved in the interoperability discussion, and I believe he will have suggestions as we move forward on how to build redundancy into our communications system.

One of the centerpieces of the legislation is video franchising reform. The bill is based largely on legislation introduced by Senator ENSIGN, S. 1504, cosponsored by Senators MCCAIN, LOTT, DEMINT, and VITTER. Senators SMITH and ROCKEFELLER introduced a similar measure. Consistent with the Inouye/Burns principles, the measure retains local franchise involvement, but is based off of the Alaska model which uses expedited procedures, consistent with the shot clock principles in the Inouye/Burns principles.

By using a standard application, but preserving the cities' right to manage their own rights of way and providing the revenues needed to operate their institutional networks as well as their PEG channels, the bill seeks to balance

the needs of those who want to deploy broadband networks for video services and the desires of cities to continue the services they offer today. We also sought to address the needs of the existing cable companies by offering them the same terms as new entrants immediately upon approval of the competitor's franchise application. Additionally, a cable company can avail itself of the new streamlined rules after its current franchise agreement expires.

Another issue addressed in the draft bill is access to video content. While satellite companies are barred from hoarding exclusive sports programming, the so-called terrestrial loophole does not impose the same mandate on cable companies. As a result, through acquisition of regional sports networks by cable operators, competition with satellite providers is stymied. The Sports Freedom Act included in this bill is patterned after a provision in the Ensign bill cosponsored by MCCAIN, LOTT, DEMINT, and VITTER.

Also critical to providing compelling content is the broadcast flag. Broadcasters are reluctant to offer their best programming over the air for fear it could be stolen and distributed worldwide over the Internet with no regard to copyright protection. This has been a critical issue for Senator INOUE on the video side and for Senator FRIST on the audio side. Senators SMITH and BOXER took on this issue and developed a draft bill which became the basis for the legislation we introduce today. It attempted to strike a balance between the needs of broadcasters and the desires of the consumer electronic industry not to have the Federal Government pick technology winners and losers. While interested parties may have suggestions for improving the bill, we believe it is a good first step in addressing their concerns. I commend Senators SMITH and BOXER for their hard work on this issue.

The measure includes a white space provision modeled after S. 2327, the Allen-Kerry WIN Act supported by Senators SUNUNU, DORGAN, and BOXER. It adds some protections the broadcasters requested to prevent harmful interference by requiring any new device to be tested in an FCC certified lab before deployment. The concept of using vacant TV channels for broadband deployment through Wi-Fi, Wi-Max and other technologies is strongly endorsed by consumer groups and the technology community. Also, each can play an important role in bringing broadband to rural America.

The legislation includes guidance on the DTV transition that was not possible in the reconciliation bill because of the Byrd rule. Much of the language we included is based on a provision Senator INOUE worked on to Address consumer education issues. It also includes an international coordination element requested by Senator HUTCHISON to address interference on the US-Mexico border that will also