authority, or governmental institution with the power to sue or be sued in its own name, within the National Capital Region;’’;
(2) in subsection (b)(1), in the matter preceding paragraph (A), by striking ‘‘the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, and any other governmental or quasi-governmental entity indicated in this paragraph’’; and
(3) in subsection (d), by striking ‘‘or employees’’ each place that term appears and inserting ‘‘, employees, or agents’’.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, and Mr. AKAKA):
S. 1246. A bill to establish and maintain a wildlife global animal information network for surveillance internationally to combat the growing threat of emerging diseases that involve wild animals, such as bird flu, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today, Senator BROWNBACK, Senator AKAKA, and I are introducing legislation that establishes a wildlife global animal information network for surveillance to enhance preparedness and awareness of emerging infectious diseases.

More than 60 percent of the approximately 1,400 currently known infectious diseases are shared between wildlife and humans. Over the past 30 years we have had many emerging infectious disease outbreaks, including hantavirus, plague, ebola, HIV/AIDS, SARS, and avian influenza. In more than 35 new infectious diseases have emerged in humans since 1980, which means that approximately one new infectious disease in humans has appeared every 8 months. These diseases have resulted in many deaths and billions of dollars in costs.

Millions of wild animals are traded globally and come into contact with humans and dozens of other species, contributing to the introduction of new diseases in humans. There are numerous examples of these spreading viruses that pose significant threats across the globe. For instance, the spreading H5N1 strain, a highly pathogenic avian influenza, has infected with avian influenza since 1980, which has caused many deaths and billions of dollars in costs.

While detecting and preventing these highly contagious diseases is critical for human health and economic stability, I would like to emphasize that, as the Government Accountability Office (GAO) observed in a 2000 report entitled ‘‘West Nile Virus Outbreak: Lessons Learned’’, the West Nile Virus outbreak in New York City, ‘‘Because a bioterrorist event could look like a natural outbreak, bioterrorism preparedness rests in large part on public health preparedness.’’ Creating early warning tools such as this one can aid efforts to protect the U.S. from natural outbreaks and deliberate bioterrorist attacks. While the network alone does not protect us, it does contribute to the mosaic of homeland security activities designed to protect Americans and those in other countries most vulnerable to bioterrorist attacks.

It is for this reason that I am pleased to join Senators LIEBERMAN and BROWNBACK in introducing this bill and urge its support.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 173—DESIGNATING AUGUST 11, 2007, AS ‘‘NATIONAL MARINA DAY’’

Ms. STABENOW submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. Res. 173

Whereas the citizens of the United States have historically enjoyed the outdoor recreation of boating and fishing, and the outdoor activities they provide, and the link between the environment and public health; and
Whereas, in 1928, the word ‘‘marina’’ was used for the first time by the National Association of Engine and Boat Manufacturers to define a recreational boating facility;
Whereas the United States is home to over 12,000 recreational boating facilities that contribute substantially to their local communities by providing safe, reliable gateways to boating for the citizens of, and the visitors to, the United States; and

Whereas the 25,800,000 small business concerns in the United States are the driving force behind the Nation’s economy, creating more than 2/3 of all net new jobs and generating more than 50 percent of the Nation’s nonfarm gross domestic product; and

Whereas Israeli business concerns are the Nation’s innovators, advancing technology and productivity; and

Whereas small business concerns represent 97 percent of all net new comers and produce 28.6 percent of exported goods;

Whereas Congress established the Small Business Administration in 1953, to aid, counsel, assist, and protect the interests of small business concerns in order to preserve free competitive enterprise, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total purchases and contracts for property and services for the Federal Government be placed with small business concerns, to ensure that a fair proportion of the total sales of Government property be made to such small business concerns, and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of the Nation;

Whereas the Small Business Administration has helped small business concerns access critical lending opportunities, protected small business concerns from excessive Federal restrictions, played a key role in ensuring full and open competition for Government contracts, and improved the economic environment in which small business concerns operate;

Whereas over 50 years, the Small Business Administration has helped millions of entrepreneurs achieve the American dream of owning a small business concern, and has played a key role in fostering economic growth; and

Whereas the President has designated the week beginning April 22, 2007 as “National Small Business Week”:

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemo rated the marinas of the United States for their many contributions to their local communities and welcome guests;

(2) designates August 11, 2007, as the sixth annual “National Marina Day” in order—

(A) to honor the marinas of the United States for their many contributions to their local communities; and

(B) to encourage public policy makers, elected officials, and employees more aware of the overall contributions marinas make to their well-being.

SENATE RESOLUTION 175—RECOGNIZING THE 97TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Whereas the United States has always supported the right of the people of Israel to determine their own future and to live in peace and security within secure and recognized boundaries, consistent with the United Nations resolutions and the will of the people of Israel;

Whereas successive leaders of Israel have emphasized the importance of the peace process, as a means to resolve the conflict with the Palestinian Authority and to achieve a secure and lasting peace for all parties;

Whereas the United States has been a steadfast supporter of the peace process and a leader in working with the international community to promote a two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect;

Whereas the people of the United States share an affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally; and

Whereas the people of the United States have made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology;

Whereas the Independence Day of Israel on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with April 26, 2007; and

Whereas recognition of the numerous achievements of the people and the State of Israel is especially important in 2007 given the grave threats issued by, and the clear intentions of, the Government of Iran: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event for providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people;

(2) strongly supports efforts to bring peace to the Middle East;

(3) commends the bipartisan commitment of Presidents and Congresses of the United States since 1948 that supported Israel and worked for the security and well-being of Israel;

(4) congratulates the United States and Israel for strengthening their bilateral relations during 2006 in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and homeland security, and encourages the United States and Israel to continue their cooperation in resolving mutual challenges; and

S. RES. 174

Whereas the Independence Day of Israel on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with April 24, 2007; and

Whereas the people of Israel have established a democratic government that incorporates the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including—

(1) the freedom of speech;

(2) the freedom of religion;

(3) the freedom of association; and

(4) the freedom of the press; and

Whereas the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from terrorist and military attacks repeated since Israel declared its independence; and

Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful bilateral relations;

Whereas, despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent citizens of Israel at the hands of murderous suicide bombers and other terrorists since 2002, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;

Whereas several Israeli soldiers remain hostages of terrorist groups, and were unable to celebrate the Independence Day of Israel with their families and friends;

Whereas successive leaders of Israel have sought peace in the Middle East;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect;

Whereas the people of the United States share an affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally;

Whereas the people of the United States have made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology;

Whereas the Independence Day of Israel on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with April 26, 2007; and

Whereas recognition of the numerous achievements of the people and the State of Israel is especially important in 2007 given the grave threats issued by, and the clear intentions of, the Government of Iran: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event for providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people;

(2) strongly supports efforts to bring peace to the Middle East;

(3) commends the bipartisan commitment of Presidents and Congresses of the United States since 1948 that supported Israel and worked for the security and well-being of Israel;