May 8, 2007

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

S5751

only approximately 5 percent of households
today;

Whereas, at the current pace, next-genera-
tion broadband networks will not be univer-
sally available in the United States for more
than 20 years, and, as a result—

(1) households in the United States will not
have access to critical information, services,
and applications;

(2) entrepreneurs and businesses in the
United States will be constrained in devel-
opping new products and services that are
accessed over the Internet and broadband
networks; and

(3) the overall welfare and economy of the
United States will suffer substantially; and

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) establishes a national next-generation
broadband network goal to bring, by 2015,
universal and affordable access to networks
with the capability of transmitting data at
100 megabits per second, bidirectionally, so
that households, businesses, and government
offices in the United States can access the
Internet and, via direct connections, access
other households, businesses, and govern-
ment offices; and

(2) directs the relevant congressional com-
mittees to work with the President—

(A) to develop a strategy to achieve the na-
tional next-generation broadband network
goal; and

(B) to begin, by the end of 2007, to enact
specific legislation and adopt policies to
implement this strategy.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I
rise today to address an important pol-
cy matter facing our Nation. Many of
us in this body have for years called for
a national broadband policy. Today, I
formally propose the establish-
ment of that national policy. I will pro-
pose that we take two steps: establish
a goal, and develop a strategy to meet
the goal.

Although broadband services are ex-
panding and more consumers are sub-
scribing to broadband, our Nation is
falling behind the rest of the world in
the deployment next generation
broadband infrastructure. Broadband
as we know it will be obsolete and we
must begin to examine how the United
States can remain a leader in commu-
nications technology. As a nation, we
must have a thoughtful national policy
to make sure all Americans have the
communications infrastructure that
they need to learn and compete in a
global environment.

A thoughtful broadband policy is crit-
cial to the future of our country. Hav-
ing a very robust broadband network
available to all Americans would pro-
vide a tremendous social and economic
benefit. The latest phrase in the
broadband lexicon is “exaflood.” It re-
fers to the flood of new, high-band-
width applications that are now avail-
able to those with a fast connection.
The number of broadband applications
now available is almost unimaginable.

In the last year, social networking Web
sites such as YouTube and MySpace,
have become integral parts of our soci-
ety. But, expanded connectivity would allow doctors to di-
agnose remotely medical conditions, music students to study with an in-
structor hundreds of miles away, and
scientists to monitor ocean floor vents
from their offices on shore. This is the
real potential of broadband to trans-
f orm our lives.

Those who have a fast enough pipe to
use those applications will enjoy a
huge benefit, both social and economic.
As we all recognize, creating next gen-
eration broadband networks is crucial
to our international competitiveness.
It is not news that the United States is
lagging many other nations in terms of
penetration of current-generation
broadband, for example, cable modems
and digital subscriber lines. Perhaps
more worrisome is that we are also
falling behind in terms of next-genera-
tion broadband technology.

In Japan, tens of millions of people
have access to a direct fiber connec-
tion, and 100 megabit connections are
commonplace. Korea has been the lead-
ner in extending fiber all the way to the
home. The same is happening in Eu-
rope—100 megabit connections are be-
coming routine in these countries, and
it is crucial that the United States not
fall behind and adopt a policy that
ensures the deployment of a strong
broadband network for all Americans.

The first step in going somewhere is
to know where you are going, and the
same is true in public policy. We need
a goal. And the goal should be an ambi-
tious, yet achievable one. The second
step is to decide how to achieve that
goal. We need a roadmap. And, we need
it now. By the end of 2007, we should es-
stablish a national goal and pass a se-
ries of policy actions designed to
achieve our national goal. There will
likely be multiple parts to the plan,
and we will likely need to modify those
parts over time. But if we do not have
a plan, we cannot expect to accomplish
our goal.

So today I am introducing a resolu-
tion calling for two things: A national
goal of 10 megabits per second world-
wide available in the United States by
the end of 2010, and 100 megabits by the
end of 2015. As I said, that is ambitious,
but achievable. A number of different
wireline and wireless technologies are
today capable of delivering five mega-
bits or more, and their efficacy is con-
stantly increasing. Ten megabits by 2010
is achievable. And by 2015 we can
do much better and achieve true next
generation speeds.

If we do our work, by 2015 we can be-
come a true “100 Megabit Nation.”
Today, speeds of 30 megabits or higher
are available to millions of Americans
due to the healthy competition devel-
oping between telephone companies
and cable television companies, com-
plemented by many forward-thinking
real estate developers and municipal-
ities. These providers are willing to
offer “triple play” services, voice,
video and data, requiring them to de-
ploy new technologies delivering very
fast speeds. Having general availability
of 100 megabits is achievable by 2015 if
we push the technology envelope. We
can do it, and we should resolve today
to do so.

The second part of my resolution says
that by the end of this year, 2007, we
must develop strategies to achiev-
ing our national goal. I will suggest
policy actions for inclusion in that
strategy, and many of you will as well.
I think we should have tax incentives
to push the private sector beyond their
current deployment plans, we should
offer low-interest loans for the same
purpose, we should reform the Uni-
versal Service Fund to encourage
broadband deployment, we should free
municipalities to deploy as they see
fit, we should ensure the wise use of
wireless spectrum, and the list goes on.
There will be new proposals to deal
with new challenges and new opportu-
nities. We should develop the first U.S.
national broadband policy by the end
of 2007, and we should revisit it every
year thereafter to modify it as nec-
essary. That is what my resolution
 calls for.

I invite my colleagues to join me in
this call for a national broadband goal
and strategy. We have talked about it
to death, it is time to take ac-

ion. We owe this to our constituents
and the country. We must act to pro-
vide them with the benefits that a pow-

erful broadband network can bring,
and we must begin today.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND
PROPOSED

SA 1061. Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Ms.
SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended
to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1062, to
amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic
Act to reauthorize and amend the prescrip-
tion drug user fee provisions, and for other
purposes; which was ordered to lie on the

SA 1062. Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Ms.
SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended
to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1062,
supra; which was ordered to lie on the

SA 1063. Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Ms.
SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended
to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1062,
supra; which was ordered to lie on the

SA 1064. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amend-
ment intended to be proposed to amend
SA 1069 submitted by Mr. Ses-
sions (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. COCH-
RAN, Mr. PYOR, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. SHELBY)
and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 1062,
supra; which was ordered to lie on the

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1061. Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Ms.
SNOWE) submitted an amend-
ment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1062, to amend the Fed-
eral Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescrip-
tion drug user fee provisions, and for other
purposes; which was ordered to lie on the

At the appropriate place in the amend-
ment, insert the following:
SEC. 1057. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue regulations to require that the labeling, including retail packaging, of each prescription drug include the name of the country in which such prescription drug was manufactured.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “labeling” has the meaning given such term in section 201(m) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(m)).

SA 1062. Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1082, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the amendment, insert the following:

SEC. 1058. CERTIFICATION OF SAFETY FOR NEW PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Health and Human Services shall certify, prior to the approval for marketing of any new prescription drug under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355), that the approval of such drug poses no additional risk to the public’s health and safety.

SA 1063. Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1082, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the amendment, insert the following:

SEC. 1064. COUNTERFEIT-RESISTANT TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall certify that the implementation of the title of this Act relating to the Importation of Prescription Drugs will pose no additional risk to the public’s health and safety and will result in a significant reduction in the cost of covered products to the American consumer in accordance with the requirement that the Secretary, not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, require that the packaging of any prescription drug incorporated—

(1) a standardized numerical identifier unique to each package of such drug, applied at the point of manufacturing and repackaging in such a way that the numerical identifier shall be linked to the numerical identifier applied at the point of manufacturing; and

(2)(A) overtly optical variable counterfeit-resistant technologies that—

(i) are visible to the naked eye, providing for visual identification of product authenticity without the need for readers, microscopes, or other detection devices.

(ii) are similar to that used by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to secure United States currency.

(iii) are manufactured and distributed in a highly secure, tightly controlled environment; and

(iv) incorporate additional layers of non-visible security features up and including forensic capability, as described in subsection (b); or

(b) technologies that have a function of security comparable to that described in subparagraph (A), as determined by the Secretary.

(b) STANDARDS FOR PACKAGING.—For the purpose of making it more difficult to counterfeit the packaging of drugs subject to this section, the manufacturers of such drugs shall incorporate the technologies described in subsection (a) into at least one additional element of the physical packaging of the drugs, including blister packs, shrink wrap, package labels, package seals, bottles, and boxes.

SA 1064. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1059 submitted by Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. SHELBY) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 1082, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1 of the amendment, strike line 4 and add the following:

"and redesignate the remaining subsections accordingly."

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursdays, May 10, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in Room G-365 of the Capitol Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. HINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2007, at 10 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the short-term energy outlook for the summer of 2007 for oil and gasoline.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to rachel.pasternack@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Tara Billingsley at (202) 224-7571 or Rachel Pasternack at (202) 224-8883.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold a business meeting during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, at 10 a.m., in room 233 of the Russell Senate Office Building. The purpose of this meeting will be to consider and approve S. 357, the Ten-In-Ten Fuel Economy Act of 2007.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Finance will meet on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on “The Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit: Review and Oversight.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to hold a hearing on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, at 10 a.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate office building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on “Will REAL ID Actually Make Us Safer? An Examination of Privacy and Civil Liberties Concerns.”

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at 10 a.m. in Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Allen Gilbert, Executive Director, The American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont, Montpelier, VT; Jim Harper, Director, Information Policy Studies, CATO Institute, Washington, DC; Dr. James Carafano, Assistant Director, Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies, Senior Research Fellow, Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies, Heritage Foundation, Washington, DC; Bruce Schneier, Founder and Chief Technology Officer, BT Counterpane, Minneapolis, MN; and Janice Kephart, President, 9/11 Security Solutions, LLC, Alexandria, VA.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 8, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.