

added as cosponsors of S. 3325, a bill to enhance remedies for violations of intellectual property laws, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3325, *supra*.

S. 3398

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3398, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to liability under State and local requirements respecting devices.

S. 3403

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3403, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require determination of the maximum feasible fuel economy level achievable for cars and light trucks for a year based on a projected fuel gasoline price that is not less than the applicable high gasoline price projection issued by the Energy Information Administration.

S. 3416

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3416, a bill to amend section 40122(a) of title 49, United States Code, to improve the dispute resolution process at the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 3507

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3507, a bill to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation.

S. 3509

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3509, a bill to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Iraq and potential security breakdown resulting from the mass displacement of Iraqis inside Iraq and as refugees into neighboring countries.

S. 3525

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) were added as cosponsors of S. 3525, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the writing of the "Star-Spangled Banner", and for other purposes.

S. 3532

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of

S. 3532, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to establish the standard mileage rate for use of a passenger automobile for purposes of the charitable contributions deduction and to exclude charitable mileage reimbursements from gross income.

S. 3537

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3537, a bill to establish the World War I Centennial Commission to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of World War I, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 551

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 551, a resolution celebrating 75 years of successful State-based alcohol regulation.

S. RES. 659

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 659, a resolution designating September 27, 2008, as Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Day.

S. RES. 660

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 660, a resolution condemning ongoing sales of arms to belligerents in Sudan, including the Government of Sudan, and calling for both a cessation of such sales and an expansion of the United Nations embargo on arms sales to Sudan.

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 660, *supra*.

S. RES. 662

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 662, a resolution raising the awareness of the need for crime prevention in communities across the country and designating the week of October 2, 2008, through October 4, 2008, as "Celebrate Safe Communities" week.

S. RES. 665

At the request of Mr. BYRD, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 665, a resolution designating October 3, 2008, as "National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Day".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 3543. A bill to improve the administration of the Minerals Management Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I have come to the floor today to intro-

duce legislation intended to bring much needed reform to the Minerals Management Service. After recent reports of the widespread corruption at the agency, I came together with my colleague Senator NELSON from Florida to work on legislative solutions that will address the complete and total lack of ethics at this agency. I would also like to take this time to thank Senator NELSON for his outstanding work on this bill. I know there are few people out there that show as much dedication and clear vision on this issue as he does.

The cries of Drill! Drill! Drill! have reached a fevered pitch and proponents of drilling say that a profitable relationship between the Government and the oil industry will benefit everyone involved.

However, as we have recently learned from reports released by the Department of Interior Inspector General's Office, the influence of Big Oil corrupts absolutely. Honestly, we have been learning that lesson over and over again since we sent an oil man to the White House. The influence of Big Oil has led us to make policy decisions that are diametrically opposed to the best interests of this country. With barrels of Big Oil lobbying money, this administration has led us all head first into policies that benefit Big Oil and almost no one else. We are more addicted to oil than ever before and we continue with this addiction to the detriment of our economy, our energy infrastructure, our environment, and even our national security.

Once Big Oil is involved, it is as if all reason flies out the window. Nowhere has this become clearer than at the Minerals Management Service. The most recent reports from the Inspector General's office describe corruption at MMS on a level difficult to believe. The descriptions of drug use and sexual activity between oil company representatives and MMS employees are not suitable for network television, much less the floor of the United States Senate. This is the agency tasked with leasing Federal lands to oil companies and ensuring the adequate compensation of such leasing and yet their employees behaved like oil company lackeys with complete disregard for the interests of the American taxpayer.

I am sure no one is surprised by the increased influence of the oil industry since we elected a former oil man to the White House, but this is truly beyond the pale. The Inspector General's report concludes that MMS is plagued by "a culture of ethical failure." This is an agency where conflict of interest is not only the norm, but where officials do not think the rules even apply to them. This is an agency with a complete free-for-all atmosphere where employees go on golf and ski outings, concerts, and sporting events all paid for by oil executives. This is an agency whose culture is "devoid of both ethical standards and internal controls" where officials are LITERALLY and figuratively in bed with industry.

This is the agency that we want to trust with our shorelines. This is the agency we want to trust to lease thousands of miles of our beaches to the oil industry and then collect compensation for use of that public land—OUR LAND—with oil and gas. The Government Accountability Office has already released reports that concluded that MMS has no idea if they are collecting the right amount of oil through the Royalty-in-Kind program. Not only that, but the agency has refused to institute the reforms recommended by GAO in order to collect the correct amount of compensation from the oil industry. Of course, considering the Inspector General's report, their lack of reform is not surprising as they were too busy living the high life on the oil industry's dime.

This agency is clearly in desperate need of regulation. If the officials at MMS believe that the rules do not apply to them, then clearly we need tougher rules. That is why I rise today with my colleague Senator NELSON from Florida to introduce legislation that will dramatically toughen the ethics rules for employees at the Minerals Management Service.

First, this legislation holds MMS employees to the same standards as federal procurement officials and addresses the revolving door between the agency and industry. There would be a one year ban on agency employees taking any private sector job for companies the employee worked with while a federal employee. This means ANY job, not just "representational activities" such as lobbying. Any real first crack at reform has to be stopping this revolving door.

Second, this legislation requires that MMS employees divest all industry investments before working at MMS. Currently, the law only requires that employees recuse themselves from working on a matter specifically having to do with a particular company in which they have a financial stake. Needless to say, trusting MMS employees who believe the rules do not apply to them and that the agency is here to serve the needs of industry seems unrealistic at best and downright dangerous at worst.

Third, we would increase the number of MMS employees required to file public financial disclosure forms and forms revealing past employment. Those who earn incomes at the base level of a G-13 employee or higher will now have to reveal this information.

Currently, only employees compensated at 120 percent of GS15 level or more must disclose. However, as this report makes clear, the extreme influence of industry on the agency means that employees beyond merely the top officials need to be held to a higher standard of objectivity.

Of course, as I mentioned, the issues at MMS do not end with the ethical standards, or lack thereof, among agency employees. The Royalty-In-Kind Program is broken and the Fed-

eral Government is not being compensated for the leasing of land to the oil industry. This program is part of the second largest source of revenue for the Federal Government, yet it currently operates on what basically amounts to an honor system. We are supposed to trust the oil companies to pay the right amount and for the employees to see that the Government receives compensation.

Therefore, our legislation would suspend the Royalty-In-Kind program until the following conditions are met. First, the MMS must conduct a comprehensive review to determine if it has been accurately collecting royalties and report its findings to Congress. We all know the oil industry is flush with cash, so there is absolutely no excuse for them to use OUR LAND to make a profit and not pay for it.

Second, the MMS must conduct a thorough review to ensure that metering equipment properly measure what royalties are owed to the Federal Government and report those findings to Congress. In addition, they will be required to perform no less than 550 audits of oil and gas leases each fiscal year to assure adequate royalties are being collected. There needs to be a real process in place to ensure adequate compensation.

Third, they must also have a robust training program for their employees ending with a signed certification that MMS employees understand ethics laws and regulations. It needs to be abundantly clear to all agency employees and officials that no matter who is in the White House the rules most definitely apply to them.

Last, the MMS must create a position for an ombudsman that will monitor the agency's progress in carrying out all these reforms. This ombudsman must be hired by and report exclusively to the Department of Interior Inspector General's office because there must be an objective outside source to protect us from this type of corruption happening again. The Inspector General will also be tasked with determining whether the Royalty-In-Kind program is even saving the taxpayers money at all.

Clearly, some type of reform at MMS is desperately needed. I believe the bill Senator NELSON and I are introducing will go a long way towards addressing these concerns. No matter what, I do not see how we can in good conscience open up thousands of miles of our precious coastlines to the oil industry without being able to trust the agency tasked with protecting our interests.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, today Senator ROBERT MENENDEZ and I filed legislation that would address the morass of ethical problems that have besieged the Minerals Management Service, MMS.

I have warned publicly that we could not trust the oil companies that want to drill in the waters off our most protected coastlines nor could we trust the Federal watchdogs charged with

keeping a watchful eye over them. We have seen proof in report after report detailing mismanagement, a lack of control, and inappropriate, even possibly criminal, behavior.

I have voiced serious doubts about the integrity and cost effectiveness of this Royalty-In-Kind program, where oil companies pay the Federal Government with mineral, oil, or gas they produce on public lands, rather than cash. This program was authorized in the 2005 Energy bill, which I opposed for many reasons.

The bill that we introduced today seeks to restore integrity in managing our offshore energy resources.

Specifically, our bill requires employees of the Minerals Management Service to adhere to the same ethical guidelines that other Federal employees abide by. This means no gifts from industry, the filing of financial disclosure forms for some higher level employees, and the divestment of all industry investments before working at MMS.

The bill suspends the scandal-plagued Royalty-in-Kind program until these conditions are met. Additionally, MMS must review the accuracy of its royalty collection program with an independent watchdog to monitor its progress. Finally, MMS is required to conduct extensive audits of the Royalty-In-Kind program to ensure the government is receiving fair compensation for use of public lands.

Offshore drilling will not solve our energy crisis nor will it bring down prices at the pump. Instead, it will only serve to further enrich the oil companies and reward the culture of corruption that has been fostered, funded, and now exposed at the Department of the Interior. I hope the Senate will consider our legislation expeditiously.

By Mr. BROWNBACK:

S. 3546. A bill to establish the National Center for Strategic Communication to advise the President regarding public diplomacy and international broadcasting to promote democracy and human rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, one might conclude from the last 7 years without a successful al Qaeda attack in America either that we have crippled our enemies or that the terrorist threat is overstated. Unfortunately, neither is true: violence is rising in Afghanistan, Pakistan and elsewhere, and the ideas behind this violence continue to proliferate from Europe to Asia and across the World Wide Web. But while we spend a great deal of time discussing tactics and troop deployments, we rarely analyze the broader ideological struggle.

Military force may sometimes be necessary in the war on terrorism, but force alone cannot defeat the threat posed by violent Islamist extremism. Recognizing this fact, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates worries about the

state of the “war of ideas” and rightly points out that it is “plain embarrassing” that al Qaeda communicates more effectively than we do.

The answer to this problem is not more money. We have spent billions since 9/11 on a wide array of public diplomacy initiatives, international broadcasts and information and exchange programs. Some succeeded, others failed, but none were developed in accordance with a national strategy overseen by an official who is accountable for making strategic communications work.

The U.S. Information Agency focused on strategic communications during the Cold War. After the defeat of communism, USIA’s mission seemed fulfilled, and I supported its dismantlement. Today’s ideological threats, however, demand the same focus on strategic communications that the USIA provided a generation ago. Today, I am introducing legislation that would establish a new National Center for Strategic Communications to correct a number of deficiencies and meet 21st century challenges.

There are several reasons why I believe major reforms are necessary. First, fundamentally, we are not on offense. Seven years after September 11, we have only begun to acknowledge the existence of a war of ideas. We need to move from merely informing the world about America to countering those who support terrorism and violence. We also need to enable moderate voices around the world to help us in opposing violent extremism.

Second, we need to separate official diplomacy—by which I mean the act of communicating with foreign governments—from public diplomacy—which means talking to foreign publics. When we dismantled USIA, we thought the result would be better coordination between official and public diplomacy. We now know that this arrangement has relegated public diplomacy to second-tier status. We need to ensure that such a crucial part of the war on terrorism receives the attention and priority level that it deserves.

Third, our strategic communications programs lack transparency and accountability. Despite spending hundreds of millions per year on international broadcasting, it is unclear how these broadcasts fit into a national strategic communications plan or how the Broadcasting Board of Governors makes decisions on allocating the resources Congress appropriates. The same could be said of the State Department’s Educational and Cultural Affairs programs. Moreover, it is nearly impossible to determine how much the Department of Defense is spending on strategic communications activities and how many of those functions might be performed—or at least better supported—by other parts of the government.

Beyond government programs, it is clear that the U.S. Government does not effectively leverage the resources

of the private sector and nonprofit groups. We should be able to promote our values and oppose violence and extremism alongside organizations that already work along the same lines. And there is no question that there are times when these outside voices will be more persuasive than the messages linked to Washington, DC.

These problems call for something beyond a bigger budget or the generic cry for better coordination among departments and agencies. We need to realign authorities so that the President has a single individual responsible for ensuring that the Nation’s strategic communications goals are being met. We need that individual to be responsible for an agency that has a clear mission to fight and win the war of ideas and the budgetary authority and flexibility to match.

My proposal abolishes the existing Undersecretary for Public Diplomacy at the State Department and the Broadcasting Board of Governors, transferring their functions to the new National Center for Strategic Communications where they would be managed by single director. The Director would report to the President as the Nation’s top strategic communications official and oversee the creation of a new national strategic communications strategy. Just as important, the Director will oversee an interagency panel of representatives from other Federal agencies and departments, including the Department of Defense, whose missions inherently involve strategic communications with foreign publics.

More than providing information about America, the goal of strategic communications should be nothing less than the ability to persuade individuals all over the world to choose freedom, human rights and the rule of law over any challenging ideologies or philosophies. My legislation would correct a number of deficiencies in our current structure in support of this objective.

First, the new Center would separate public diplomacy—speaking to foreign publics—from official diplomacy—speaking to foreign governments. We should not let public diplomacy be held hostage to the official priority of the moment, nor should public diplomacy budgets compete with official diplomatic priorities.

Second, the Center would manage U.S. international broadcasts directly. Too often in the last few years, taxpayer-funded broadcasts have been kept at arms length from government oversight and undermined rather than affirmed U.S. policies and values. My legislation makes our broadcasts more transparent and focused on the national mission by giving the Center close oversight of our broadcasts and abolishing outdated Smith-Mundt Act provisions that keep the American public from knowing what the government is saying abroad.

Third, the Center enlists the support of private, non-profit and non-govern-

mental organizations. There is no reason to believe the U.S. Government must always deliver key messages, and outside groups may have the best ability to counter ideological support for extremism. My proposal enables the new Center to make grants to such groups and places representatives of the Center in key countries around the globe to implement our national strategy on a local level.

Our vision of a free, prosperous and peaceful world is under attack from extremists who propose endless violence and fear. Military force may keep these extremists at bay for a time, but ultimate victory depends on winning the war of ideas. Though some would throw more money at our strategic communications problems or settle for smaller, marginal reforms, I believe major reforms are necessary for us to succeed. I look forward to developing this proposal with the next administration and the new Congress. No matter who ends up in power, we will have a share in reforms that can help win the war on terror without just relying on more bullets.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 678—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mrs. DOLE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BAYH, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 678

Whereas ovarian cancer is the deadliest of all gynecological cancers, and the reported incidence of ovarian cancer is increasing over time;

Whereas ovarian cancer is the 5th leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the United States;

Whereas all women are at risk for ovarian cancer, and 90 percent of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer do not have a family history that puts them at higher risk;

Whereas the Pap smear is sensitive and specific to the early detection of cervical cancer, but not to ovarian cancer;

Whereas there is currently no reliable and easy-to-administer screening test used for the early detection of ovarian cancer;

Whereas many people are unaware that the symptoms of ovarian cancer often include bloating, pelvic or abdominal pain, difficulty eating or feeling full quickly, and urinary symptoms, among several other symptoms that are easily confused with other diseases;

Whereas due to the lack of a reliable early screening test, 75 percent of cases of ovarian cancer are detected at an advanced stage, when the 5-year survival rate is only 50 percent, a much lower rate than for many other cancers;

Whereas if ovarian cancer is diagnosed and treated at an early stage before the cancer spreads outside of the ovary, the treatment is potentially less costly, and the survival rate is as high as 90 percent;

Whereas there are factors that are known to reduce the risk for ovarian cancer and