

Whereas, these wood to electricity projects provide an additional market for raw wood products even in a distressed market, provide an additional source of electricity at a market rate that is carbon neutral, and provide a dedicated electrical source available locally to supply viable defense structures and critical facilities in times of natural disasters; and

Whereas, the foundation has completed plans for two centrally located plants within the state that will use wood waste products from wood producers in the vicinity; and

Whereas, the electrical production will be made equally available to wood-related industries and a grid for the benefit of low-income households within reasonable vicinity of the plant sites; and

Whereas, the two proposed projects will inject sixty million dollars into the economy in terms of construction and start-up costs and will create a minimum of thirty permanent full-time jobs at the plant sites and approximately one hundred jobs for suppliers of the wood fuel feedstock; and

Whereas, in the last several months, significant regional job losses in the wood industry make this effort even more vital to securing new alternatives for value-added market activity related to the wood resources of the state; and

Whereas, there is a current need for additional funding to complete the necessary regulatory, environmental, engineering, and administrative functions to fulfill the requirements for construction loan approvals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana congressional delegation, the governor, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Public Service Commission to assist in providing funding for any necessary additional requirements, documentation, or studies that may be needed to secure long-term funding, and to assist in developing state and federal policies for wood to electricity projects that put them on a commensurate funding and taxation level with wind and solar generated electricity; and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana congressional delegation, the governor, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Public Service Commission.

POM-75. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana memorializing Congress to support the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 158

Whereas, a federally mandated energy efficiency and renewable energy standard for utilities is currently being debated in Congress; and

Whereas, federal standards for the regulation of climate change gases, primarily carbon dioxide, are also being actively debated in Congress; and

Whereas, Louisiana's coast is comprised of forty percent of the nation's coastal wetlands and it recognizes the importance of coordinated and effective actions to reduce the emissions of climate change gases; and

Whereas, in areas of the country with limited wind and hydroelectric resources, renewable energy standards, if improperly implemented, can have significant adverse impacts on non-participating ratepayers; and

Whereas, renewable energy resources that are non-dispatchable and non-reliable do not reduce capacity requirements of utilities and thus present an undue adverse impact on non-participating ratepayers; and

Whereas, energy efficiency can produce energy and demand savings for a fraction of the cost of most forms of renewable energy; and

Whereas, renewable portfolio standards are traditionally based solely on electrical energy production; and

Whereas, in air conditioning-dominated climates, electrical energy usage is a much larger component of total energy use compared to heating dominated climates; and

Whereas, heating energy sources such as heating oil pose both environmental and national security risks as they contribute to air pollution emissions and increased oil imports: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to support the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009; and, be it further

Resolved, that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana congressional delegation to take appropriate action to insure the following:

(1) Any federally mandated renewable portfolio standard contain provisions whereby states with limited, currently available, affordable renewable energy resources, such as Louisiana, be allowed to utilize verifiable energy efficiency improvements to existing loads to meet a minimum of sixty percent of any such standard.

(2) That the state be allowed to set up a mechanism whereby Louisiana utility companies taking action in advance of the imposition of the standard be allowed to bank any energy efficiency savings and renewable energy production achieved in order to help meet the requirements under any such standard.

(3) That tax credits and rebates offered by the state of Louisiana or any local jurisdiction within the state be declared by the United States Internal Revenue Service to be nontaxable income and will not reduce the tax credit basis of any federal energy efficiency or renewable energy tax credit.

(4) That mandates for renewable energy production that is not dispatchable and reliable be limited to no more than ten percent of the required production standard.

(5) That any energy efficiency and renewable energy standard be based on a percentage of total energy consumption, not just electrical energy consumption, regardless of how it is implemented and collected; and, be it further

Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-76. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Louisiana memorializing Congress to review and consider eliminating provisions of federal law which reduce Social Security benefits for those receiving pension benefits from federal, state, or local government retirement or pension systems, plans, or funds; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 32

Whereas, the Congress of the United States has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefit for any person who also receives a federal, state, or local retirement or pension benefit; and

Whereas, the intent of Congress in enacting the GPO and the WEP provisions was to address concerns that a public employee who had worked primarily in federal, state, or local government employment might receive

a public pension in addition to the same Social Security benefit as a person who had worked only in employment covered by Social Security throughout his career; and

Whereas, the purpose of Congress in enacting these reduction provisions was to provide a disincentive for public employees to receive two pensions; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, because of these calculation characteristics, the GPO and the WEP have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, because the Social Security benefit statements do not calculate the GPO and the WEP, many public employees in Louisiana are unaware that their expected Social Security benefits shown on such statements will be significantly lower or nonexistent due to the service in public employment through which they are required to be members of a Louisiana public retirement or pension system, plan, or fund; and

Whereas, these provisions also have a greater adverse effect on women than on men because of the gender differences in salary that continue to plague our nation and the longer life expectancy of women; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to review the GPO and the WEP Social Security benefit reductions and to consider eliminating or reducing them by enacting the Social Security Fairness Act of 2009 (H.R. 235 or R.S. 484) or a similar instrument; and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

H.R. 774. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 46-02 21st Street in Long Island City, New York, as the "Geraldine Ferraro Post Office Building".

H.R. 987. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at

601 8th Street in Freedom, Pennsylvania, as the "John Scott Challis, Jr. Post Office".

H.R. 1271. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2351 West Atlantic Boulevard in Pompano Beach, Florida, as the "Elijah Pat Larkins Post Office Building".

H.R. 1397. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 41 Purdy Avenue in Rye, New York, as the "Caroline O'Day Post Office Building".

H.R. 2090. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 431 State Street in Ogdensburg, New York, as the "Frederic Remington Post Office Building".

H.R. 2162. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 123 11th Avenue South in Nampa, Idaho, as the "Herbert A Littleton Post Office".

H.R. 2325. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1300 Matamoros Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "Laredo Veterans Post Office".

H.R. 2422. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2300 Scenic Drive in Georgetown, Texas, as the "Kile G. West Post Office Building".

H.R. 2470. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 19190 Cochran Boulevard FRNT in Port Charlotte, Florida, as the "Lieutenant Commander Roy H. Boehm Post Office Building".

S. 748. A bill to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2777 Logan Avenue in San Diego, California, as the "Cesar E. Chavez Post Office".

S. 1211. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 60 School Street, Orchard Park, New York, as the "Jack F. Kemp Post Office Building".

S. 1314. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 630 Northeast Killingsworth Avenue in Portland, Oregon, as the "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Post Office".

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. CORKER (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1540. A bill to provide for enhanced authority of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to act as receiver for certain affiliates of depository institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 1541. A bill to amend title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize private education loan refinancing under the Federal student loan program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 1542. A bill to impose tariff-rate quotas on certain casein and milk protein concentrates; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 1543. A bill to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and title 5, United States Code, to provide leave for family members of members of regular components of the Armed Forces, and leave to care for covered veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KOHL (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 1544. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 with respect to the composition of the board of directors of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 1545. A bill to expand the research and awareness activities of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to scleroderma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 1546. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain parcels of land to the town of Mantua, Utah; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BOND, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1547. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, and the United States Housing Act of 1937 to enhance and expand the assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Housing and Urban Development to homeless veterans and veterans at risk of homelessness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. BURR):

S. 1548. A bill to improve research, diagnosis, and treatment of musculoskeletal diseases, conditions, and injuries, to conduct a longitudinal study on aging, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1549. A bill to protect United States citizens from unlawful arrest and detention; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 1550. A bill to ensure that individuals detained by the Department of Homeland Security are treated humanely, provided adequate medical care, and granted certain specified rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. REED, and Mr. KAUFMAN):

S. 1551. A bill to amend section 20 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to allow for a private civil action against a person that provides substantial assistance in violation of such Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. BYRD, and Mr. ENSIGN):

S. 1552. A bill to reauthorize the DC opportunity scholarship program, and for other purposes; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. Res. 231. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that any health care reform proposal should slow the long-term growth of health costs and reduce the growth

rate of Federal health care spending; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. Res. 232. A resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Tillamook County Creamery Association; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWNBACK:

S. Res. 233. A resolution commending Russ Meyer on his induction into the National Aviation Hall of Fame; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 252

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 252, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the capacity of the Department of Veterans Affairs to recruit and retain nurses and other critical health-care professionals, to improve the provision of health care veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 254

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 254, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home infusion therapy under the Medicare Program.

S. 423

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 423, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize advance appropriations for certain medical care accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs by providing two-fiscal year budget authority, and for other purposes.

S. 446

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 446, a bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings.

S. 493

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 493, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the establishment of ABLE accounts for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 581

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 581, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to require the exclusion of combat pay from income for purposes of determining eligibility for child nutrition programs and the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children.

S. 601

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as