

SEC. 5 RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY DESIGNATION

(a) Priority Treatments: This section describes priorities for treatment—not in order of preference. The intent is for the agency to treat the identified areas before general forest.

The section also allows for assistance to State and local governments, Indian tribes and private landowners for the removal of hazardous trees and restoration of the health of land located in the insect and disease emergency area.

(b) Biomass Use: This provision states priority should be given to those areas that are in the insect and disease emergency areas when determining BCAP funded areas. BCAP is to assist with the collection, harvest, storage, and transportation of biomass material. 'The Secretary shall make a payment for the delivery of eligible material to a biomass conversion facility to (1) a producer of an eligible crop that is produced on BCAP contract acreage; or (2) a person with the right to collect or harvest eligible material.' The Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) provides financial assistance to producers or entities that deliver eligible biomass material to designated biomass conversion facilities for use as heat, power, biobased products or biofuels. Initial assistance will be for the collection, harvest, storage and transportation costs associated with the delivery of eligible materials.

(c) Emergency Forest Restoration: This section provides funding assistance through grants for people who remove biomass from private property. 'The Secretary may make payments to an owner of nonindustrial private forest land who carries out emergency measures to restore the land after the land is damaged by a natural disaster.' This section adds the emergency areas described by this bill under this authority.

(d) Biomass: This amends the definition of the renewable fuels standard. The RFS specifically excludes material from NFS lands—this would include those lands in the insect and disease emergency area.

(e) Healthy Forest Restoration: This section allows the Forest Service to apply the streamlined NEPA provisions of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act to hazardous fuels removal, hazard tree removal and restoration of the health of National Forest land in the insect and disease emergency areas.

SEC. 6 GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY

This provision makes the Good Neighbor authority permanent for all states.

SEC. 7 STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING

This provision makes Stewardship contracting permanent. It also changes the current requirement of the Federal Acquisition Regulation to fund costs of cancelling a contract at the time of award for a multi-year stewardship contract to a requirement for payment of contract cancellation at the time such cancellation may occur.

SEC. 8 EFFECT

This section says that nothing in this act diminishes the right of private property owners.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 354—COM-MENDING ROBERT C. BYRD, SENATOR FROM WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN,

Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BURRIS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAUFMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEMIEUX, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPETER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 354

Whereas, Robert C. Byrd has served for fifty-six years in the United States Congress, making him the longest serving Member of Congress in history,

Whereas, Robert C. Byrd has served over fifty years in the United States Senate, and is the longest serving Senator in history, having been elected to nine full terms;

Whereas, Robert C. Byrd has had a long and distinguished record of public service to the people of West Virginia and the United States, having held more elective offices than any other individual in the history of West Virginia, and being the only West Virginian to have served in both Houses of the West Virginia Legislature and in both Houses of the United States Congress;

Whereas, Robert C. Byrd has served in the Senate leadership as President pro tempore, Majority Leader, Majority Whip, Minority Leader, and Secretary of the Majority Conference;

Whereas, Robert C. Byrd has served on a Senate committee, the Committee on Appropriations, which he has chaired during five Congresses, longer than any other Senator;

Whereas, Robert C. Byrd is the first Senator to have authored a comprehensive history of the United States Senate;

Whereas, Robert C. Byrd has throughout his service in the Senate vigilantly defended the Constitutional prerogatives of the Congress;

Whereas, Robert C. Byrd has played an essential role in the development and enactment of an enormous body of national legislative initiatives and policy over many decades: now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and commends Robert C. Byrd, Senator from West Virginia, for his fifty-six years of exemplary service in the Congress of the United States.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, November 19, 2009, at 2:15 p.m. in Room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting on S. 1635, the 7th Generation Promise: Indian Youth Suicide Prevention Act of 2009, and S. 1790, a bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend that act, and for other purposes, to be followed immediately by an oversight hearing to examine drug smuggling and gang activity in Indian country.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 202-224-2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 18, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. in room 106 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 18, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 18, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 18, 2009, at 10:15 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on November 18, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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