

percent. Within these counties, unemployment in some agricultural communities has touched 40 percent.

Farms and ranches are an important source of jobs in these communities.

This legislation aims to protect family farms that intend to hire, while providing more certainty to thousands of workers across the State.

In 2006, I warned that difficult decisions would be required before the estate tax expired in 2010.

Well, 2010 is here and the picture of our nation's fiscal health is not a pretty one.

We are facing a record \$1.3 trillion budget deficit.

The national debt has reached a new high at roughly \$13 trillion.

The parameters of the estate tax debate have shifted for most, by necessity.

Full estate tax repeal is out of the question, and our number one priority for allocating federal resources has rightly been shifted to job creation and economic recovery.

But, absent Congressional action, the estate tax will return with ferocity next year at a 55 percent rate with an exemption level of \$1 million.

I don't think this is something that many in this body would like to see.

So, any estate tax reform must be well-targeted and balanced to ensure it is fiscally responsible.

As we work to develop comprehensive, permanent, and fiscally-responsible estate tax reform this year, I urge my colleagues to remember that the estate tax was never intended to prevent family farms from being passed from generation to generation.

Our legislation resolves this issue for once and for all, and by safeguarding against loopholes for rich farming conglomerates and agribusinesses, it does so at minimal cost.

Moreover, we take steps forward to protect our precious environment and preserve open space and agricultural lands.

There is no doubt that many family farmers are under financial pressure during these difficult times.

We must take steps to bring relief to the very family farmers and ranchers who have devoted their lives to helping feed and sustain this great nation.

This legislation is a fiscally responsible and targeted effort to ensure that we preserve this tradition for legitimate working farms.

Estate tax reform must be addressed soon, and this issue can no longer be delayed.

I urge my colleagues to support this effort and to enact this legislation as quickly as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 596—TO DESIGNATE SEPTEMBER 25, 2010, AS “NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY”

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CASEY, Mr.

REED, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. KAUFMAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. GREGG, Mr. WEBB, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 596

Whereas the estuary regions of the United States comprise a significant share of the national economy, with 43 percent of the population, 40 percent of the employment, and 49 percent of the economic output of the United States located in the estuary regions of the United States;

Whereas coasts and estuaries contribute more than \$800,000,000,000 annually in trade and commerce to the United States economy;

Whereas more than 43 percent of all adults in the United States visit a sea coast or estuary at least once a year to participate in some form of recreation, generating \$8,000,000,000 to \$12,000,000,000 in revenue annually;

Whereas more than 28,000,000 jobs in the United States are supported by commercial and recreational fishing, boating, tourism, and other coastal industries that rely on healthy estuaries;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitat for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many that are listed as threatened or endangered;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization and erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during extreme weather events;

Whereas 55,000,000 acres of estuarine habitat have been destroyed during the 100 years preceding the date of agreement to this resolution;

Whereas bays once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical wastes, harmful algae, and marine debris;

Whereas sea level rise is accelerating the degradation of estuaries by—

- (1) submerging low-lying land;
- (2) eroding beaches;
- (3) converting wetland to open water;
- (4) exacerbating coastal flooding; and
- (5) increasing the salinity of estuaries and freshwater aquifers;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) declares that it is the national policy to preserve, protect, develop, and if possible, to restore or enhance, the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas scientific study leads to better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas Federal, State, local, and tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas September 25, 2010, has been designated as “National Estuaries Day” to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal, State and local government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to

protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 25, 2010, as “National Estuaries Day”;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Day;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to the economic well-being and productivity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of the estuaries of the United States;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) reaffirms the support of the Senate for estuaries, including the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 597—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2010 AS “NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BURR, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JOHANNES, Mr. KERRY, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. VITTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 597

Whereas countless families in the United States live with prostate cancer;

Whereas 1 in 6 males in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in his lifetime;

Whereas prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer and the second most common cause of cancer-related deaths among males in the United States;

Whereas in 2010, 217,730 males in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, and 32,050 males will die from the disease;

Whereas 30 percent of newly diagnosed prostate cancer cases occur in males under the age of 65;

Whereas approximately every 14 seconds, a male in the United States turns 50 years old and increases his odds of developing cancer, including prostate cancer;

Whereas African-American males suffer from a prostate cancer incidence rate that is up to 65 percent higher than White males and have double the prostate cancer mortality rate of White males;

Whereas obesity is a significant predictor of the severity of prostate cancer;

Whereas the probability that obesity will lead to death and high cholesterol levels is strongly associated with advanced prostate cancer;

Whereas males in the United States with 1 family member diagnosed with prostate cancer have a 1 in 3 chance of being diagnosed with the disease; males with 2 family members diagnosed have an 83 percent chance; and males with 3 family members diagnosed have a 97 percent chance;