

POM-230. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

“JOINT RESOLUTION 25

“Whereas, Air and highway travel is becoming increasingly congested in the Western United States as populations continue to increase in those areas; and

“Whereas, Such congestion may result in an increase in the number of fatal automobile and airplane accidents and in the amount of harmful contaminants released in to the atmosphere; and

“Whereas, The technology to build super-speed trains which operate by magnetic levitation is available and if employed would help eliminate the congested conditions on the highways and in the air and therefore help reduce the rate of fatal accidents and the levels of air pollution; and

“Whereas, Super-speed trains which operate by magnetic levitation can travel in excess of 180 miles per hour and therefore for many trips would be of comparable efficiency to that of most commercial airlines; and

“Whereas, The estimated fare for passengers of such super-speed trains is only about two-thirds of the prevailing fare for passengers of commercial airlines; and

“Whereas, The cost of construction of such a super-speed train system is estimated to be lower per mile than building traditional highways or airports in urban areas; now, therefore, be it

“Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of Nevada, jointly, That the President of the United States and Congress are hereby urged to support all federal and state efforts to build and operate super-speed trains which operate by magnetic levitation and to support financially, through grants or otherwise, the development of a national corridor for the travel of such super-speed trains; and be it further

“Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

“Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage and approval.”

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATFIELD, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled “Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals from the Concurrent Resolution for Fiscal Year 1996” (Rept. No. 104-115).

By Mr. MACK, from the Committee on Appropriations, with amendments:

H.R. 1854. A bill making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 104-114).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. STEVENS:

S. 1046. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue certificates of docu-

mentation with appropriate endorsements for employment in the coastwise trade of the United States for 14 former U.S. Army hovercraft; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Mr. HOLLINGS):

S. 1047. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue certificates of documentation and coastwise trade endorsements for the vessels ENCHANTED ISLES and ENCHANTED SEAS; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PRESSLER (for himself and Mr. BURNS):

S. 1048. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for human space flight; science, aeronautics, and technology; mission support; and Inspector General; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HEFLIN:

S. 1049. A bill to amend the National Trails Systems Act to designate the route from Selma to Montgomery as a National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. STEVENS:

S. 1046. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue certificates of documentation with appropriate endorsements for employment in the coastwise trade of the United States for 14 former U.S. Army hovercraft; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself and Mr. HOLLINGS):

S. 1047. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue certificates of documentation and coastwise trade endorsements for the vessels *Enchanted Isles* and *Enchanted Seas*; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

JONES ACT WAIVERS LEGISLATION

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, today I am introducing two bills to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue certificates of documentation for certain vessels.

HOVERCRAFT

The first bill would authorize the issuance of certificates of documentation with appropriate endorsements for employment in the coastwise trade of the United States for 14 hovercraft formerly owned by the U.S. Army.

These hovercraft were built for the U.S. Army by Bell Aerospace Co. in Buffalo, NY, between 1982 and 1986.

The vessels are 76 feet in length and capable of hauling 30 tons of cargo each.

After being declared surplus by the U.S. Army in 1994, the hovercraft were acquired by Champion Constructors, Inc., a subsidiary of Cook Inlet Region, Inc., of Anchorage, AK.

The hovercraft are intended to be used for transporting cargo and passengers between points in Alaska.

It is my understanding that most of the major components of the hover-

craft were constructed and assembled in the United States, but that because some components were constructed in Canada, the hovercraft have been determined by the Coast Guard to be ineligible to operate in the coastwise trade of the United States.

The first bill I am introducing today would allow these vessels to be operated in the U.S. coastwise trade.

I ask unanimous consent that this bill be printed in the RECORD.

VESSELS

Senator HOLLINGS joins me as a co-sponsor of the second bill I am introducing today, which would authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue certificates of documentation with appropriate endorsements for employment in the coastwise trade of the United States for two cruise ships that were built in the United States but that are currently being operated under the Panamanian flag.

It is my understanding that the *Enchanted Isle* and *Enchanted Seas* were built in the 1950's in Mississippi, and that they can carry approximately 1,000 passengers each.

The vessels left the United States coastwise trade and began flying the Panamanian flag in 1972.

A U.S. flag company, International Marine Carriers, is in the process of acquiring the vessels, and would like to employ them in trade in the Gulf of Mexico and along the east coast.

The vessels will provide jobs for U.S. seamen, and it is my understanding that U.S. maritime unions support waiving them into the U.S. trade. The Coast Guard authorization bill passed in the House earlier this year included waivers for the two ships.

I ask unanimous consent that this bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bills were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1046

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That notwithstanding section 12106, 12107, and 12108 of title 46, United States Code, and section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920 (46 App. U.S.C. 883), as applicable on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation may issue certificates of documentation with appropriate endorsements for employment in the coastwise trade of the United States for the fourteen former U.S. Army hovercraft with serial numbers LACV-30-04, LACV-30-05, LACV-30-07, LACV-30-09, LACV-30-10, LACV-30-13, LACV-30-14, LACV-30-15, LACV-30-16, LACV-30-22, LACV-30-23, LACV-30-24, LACV-30-25, and LACV-30-26.

S. 1047

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That notwithstanding section 27 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1920 (46 U.S.C. App. 883), the Act of June 19, 1886 (46 U.S.C. App. 289), section 12106 of title 46, United States Code, section 506 of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 (46 U.S.C. App. 1156), and any agreement with the United States Government, the Secretary of Transportation may issue certificates of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for the

vessels ENCHANTED ISLES (Panamanian official number 14087-84B) and ENCHANTED SEAS (Panamanian official number 14064-84D), except that the vessels may not operate between or among islands in the State of Hawaii.

By Mr. PRESSLER (for himself and Mr. BURNS):

S. 1048 A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for human space flight; science, aeronautics, and technology; mission support; and inspector general; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

THE NASA AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, today I introduced the NASA Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996. NASA faces two challenges. The first is maintaining America's leadership in aeronautics and space. The second is accomplishing the leadership goal within the confines of a balanced Federal budget. This authorization is intended to allow NASA to meet both of these challenges.

NASA started out this year with a plan to cut \$5 billion over 5 years from its budget. Then, the Senate and House developed budget plans which require even deeper cuts. As a result, our bill authorizes a total of \$13.8 billion for NASA in fiscal year 1996, a 3-percent decrease from the current funding level of \$14.26 billion.

Despite the funding cut, the bill manages to support a diverse and forward-looking space program. It authorizes all of NASA's major current programs such as Mission to Planet Earth, Space Station, Space Science, and Aeronautics and, in almost all cases, at their requested funding levels. At the same time, it prepares NASA for the future by authorizing a number of new starts including the new Reusable Launch Vehicle Technology Development Program aimed at providing private industry the technology to eventually build a Shuttle replacement, and a new radar satellite program to develop and make use of the latest advances in satellite remote sensing technology.

Mr. President, I would now like to make special mention of certain portions of the bill.

I believe Mission to Planet Earth may be NASA's most important and relevant program. The satellite data from Mission to Planet Earth will deliver direct benefits to the taxpayer in contrast to the speculative spinoffs promised by other space activities. For this reason, the bill fully funds this activity at the requested level of \$1.36 billion.

Using the latest satellite technology, Mission to Planet Earth will help researchers understand and predict the global climate trends that affect our lives. As a Senator representing an agricultural State, I have a keen interest in this program's potential to provide

detailed data on soil conditions, topography, crops, and other information critical to the farming and ranching community. I also take great pride in the selection of the EROS Data Center in Sioux Falls, SD as one of the regional data centers that will collect and distribute this satellite data.

I am very concerned that, under the new budget constraints in which we find ourselves, some may seek to sacrifice Mission to Planet Earth, and space science in general, to fund Space Station. That would be a disservice to the Nation and I will oppose any such move strongly.

I am pleased with the direction of the baseline plan for the Mission to Planet Earth Program and am concerned about the possibility of NASA taking any imprudent and unnecessary efforts to restructure the program. Accordingly, the bill specifically prohibits NASA from changing the program unless, 60 days before such action, NASA has reported to Congress on the nature and overall impact of the planned changes.

The bill also provides the full \$2.1 billion requested funding for space station. However, this authorization should not be interpreted as a ringing endorsement of that program. I am a longstanding supporter of the program, but, in recent years, I have become concerned that it has become too expensive, too complex, and too dependent on the contributions of Russia, the latest station partner.

In a June 1995 report, the General Accounting Office [GAO] estimated that the total cost of the design, launch, and operation of the space station will be \$94 billion. That is almost seven times the entire annual budget for NASA. Given the history of past missions, it is fair to assume that \$94 billion price tag for the program will increase over time. If that happens, we may wake up to find the enormous space station budget has crowded out every other NASA program and that space station has become NASA's only mission. Because of my reservations about space station, I may well reconsider my support in the future.

The bill also supports several new starts at NASA to extend its vision into the next century. The bill authorizes a reusable launch vehicle program, which will support the X-33 and X-34 activities to pave the way for the later development by private enterprise of a replacement for the shuttle in the next decade.

Employing 1970's technologies and costing \$400 million per flight, the shuttle may have outlived its usefulness. However, within today's budget constraints, the Government cannot afford to foot the entire bill for a new multibillion spacecraft development program. That is why the reusable launch vehicle program, with its emphasis on sharing financing with industry and its goal of moving our national space transportation system toward privatization, seems a viable concept worth pursuing.

Also authorized are the New Millennium initiative to develop new micro-miniature technologies aimed at reducing the cost and development times for satellites and two infrared astronomy programs—the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy and the Space Infrared Telescope Facility. The bill also authorizes a new Radar Satellite Program we call "TopSat," and a third shuttle flight for the Shuttle Imaging Radar-C satellite. Because radar satellites have the ability to "see" through cloud cover, they will dramatically enhance the capability of the Nation's existing optical-based satellite systems such as Landsat. With Japan and Europe already operating radar satellite systems, and with Canada poised to deploy one later this year, the United States cannot afford to be left behind in this critical technology.

In my role as chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, it has become apparent to me that small-city, rural States like my home State of South Dakota are often forgotten in our vast \$70 billion Federal science and technology enterprise. That part of America wants to be part of the technological revolution. More important, it wants to contribute.

It is in the national interest to strengthen the scientific talent, resources, and infrastructure in our rural States through appropriate research, education, and outreach activities. The bill attempts to accomplish this in several ways. It increases funding for the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research Program [EPSCoR] from its current level of \$4.9 million to \$6.9 million. NASA's EPSCoR Program, as well as similar programs in six other science agencies, have been instrumental in providing Federal funding for academic research in rural States. Our bill also funds a Rural Teacher Resource Center, a Rural Technology Transfer and Commercialization Center, and a regional science education and outreach center for the Plains States region.

Mr. President, I believe NASA is up to the challenge of keeping America preeminent in aeronautics and space despite the intense budget pressure and despite the increasing competition from other spacefaring nations. It is my belief this authorization bill provides NASA with the support it needs to meet that challenge.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 295

At the request of Mrs. KASSEBAUM, the name of the Senator from Arizona [Mr. MCCAIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 295, a bill to permit labor management cooperative efforts that improve America's economic competitiveness to continue to thrive, and for other purposes.