

Mr. LEVIN. The House fiscal year 1996 Agriculture Appropriations bill proposes to fund the Michigan Biotechnology Consortium—also read Institute—at \$1 million. This is approximately a 50% reduction from the FY95 level of \$1.995 million. I understand that the budget deficit demands sacrifice from all agencies and grant recipients, but a 50% cut will severely affect the cutting-edge work done by and the pace of technological innovation at MBI.

The Senate FY96 Agriculture Appropriations bill does not include funding for MBI under CSREES. However, the Senate conferees have receded to the House level for MBI in past years, with strong support from the Michigan Congressional delegation. I urge the Senate Conferees to once again accept the House's funding level and, if possible, return MBI funding to its FY95 level.

Mr. COCHRAN. I am aware of the valuable CSREES work that has been conducted by MSU/MBI. I assure my colleagues from Michigan that I will revisit MBI's FY96 funding in conference and will remember the Senators' strong support for MBI.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:48 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Goetz, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 464. An act to make the reporting deadlines for studies conducted in Federal court demonstration districts consistent with the deadlines for pilot districts, and for other purposes.

S. 532. An act to clarify the rules governing venue, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with amendments, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 641. An act to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act of 1990, and for other purposes.

The message further announced the House has passed the following joint resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.J. Res. 83. Joint resolution relating to the United States-North Korea Agreed Framework and the obligations of North Korea under that and previous agreements

with respect to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and dialogue with the Republic of Korea.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 42. Concurrent resolution supporting a resolution to the long-standing dispute regarding Cyprus.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated:

H.J. Res. 83. Joint resolution relating to the United States-North Korea Agreed Framework and the obligations of North Korea under that and previous agreements with respect to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and dialogue with the Republic of Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The following concurrent resolution was read and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 42. Concurrent resolution supporting a resolution to the long-standing dispute regarding Cyprus; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-1451. A communication from the Comptroller General, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report on the status of budget authority that was proposed for rescission in the special impoundment message for fiscal year 1995 (dated February 6, 1995); referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986, to the Committee on Appropriations, Committee on the Budget, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, Committee on Commerce, Science and Technology, Committee on the Environment and Public Works, Committee on Finance, Committee on Labor and Human Resources and the Committee on Small Business.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-291. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

“SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

“Whereas, family violence is a severe problem in Texas, accounting for more than 22 percent of violent crime in the state; and

“Whereas, victims of family violence are frequently handicapped in their efforts to leave their abusers because of lack of support and shelter; and

“Whereas, current restrictions on food stamp applications may force some victims to return to their abusers due to requirements that a victim must seek and obtain refuge in a battered women's shelter to qualify for immediate reissuance of food stamps; and

“Whereas, in all of Texas there are only 62 full-service battered women's shelters, and these are frequently too crowded to accept new victims; and

“Whereas, the current federal policy frequently punishes victims of family violence: Now, therefore, be it

“Resolved, That the 74th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to amend the food stamp program by adding a special provision to allow food stamp workers to reissue food stamp benefits to family members fleeing from domestic violence, regardless of where they seek refuge, provided the families present evidence that they were or are victims of domestic violence; and, be it further

“Resolved, That the Texas Secretary of State forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the president of the senate and speaker of the house of representatives of the United States Congress, and all members of the Texas delegation to the Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States.”

POM-292. A resolution adopted by the Council of the Township of Old Bridge, Middlesex County, New Jersey relative to demonstration programs; to the Committee on Appropriations.

POM-293. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas; to the Committee on Appropriations.

“SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 87

“Whereas, chronic fatigue and immune dysfunction syndrome is the medical term for a group of symptoms that include debilitating fatigue, fever, depression, and a reduced ability to undertake normal daily activities or to function productively; and

“Whereas, the disease affects people of all ages, interrupting the education and employment of those afflicted and imposing enormous social costs ranging from burdensome medical expenses to increased demand for disability payments and other social services; and

“Whereas, the syndrome was first recognized 10 years ago, but there has been little effort to find either a cause or a cure for the disease, with the result that patients are often misdiagnosed, receive inadequate medical treatment, and can face difficulty in receiving social services and public assistance; and

“Whereas, both present and future generations would benefit greatly if the resources of government were marshalled to eliminate the personal and social costs of this insidious and debilitating disease: Now, therefore, be it

“Resolved, That the 74th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to increase federal funding for research relating to chronic fatigue and immune dysfunction syndrome; and, be it further

“Resolved, That the Texas Secretary of State forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to the President of the Senate of the United States Congress, and to all Members of the Texas delegation to the Congress, with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.”

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CHAFEE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

Greta Joy Dicus, of Arkansas, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 1998.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that she be confirmed, subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

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. BAUCUS:

S. 1259. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to use stewardship contracting in a demonstration program to restore and maintain the ecological integrity and productivity of forest ecosystems to insure that the land and resources are passed to future generations in better condition than they were found; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MACK (for himself, Mr. D'AMATO, and Mr. BOND):

S. 1260. A bill to reform and consolidate the public and assisted housing programs of the United States, and to redirect primary responsibility for these programs from the Federal Government to States and localities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MOYNIHAN:

S. 1261. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prevent the avoidance of tax through the use of foreign trusts; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. D'AMATO:

S. Res. 173. A resolution to proclaim the week of September 24 through September 30, 1995, as National Dog Week; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRAMS (for himself, Mr. DOLE, Mr. HELMS, and Mr. THOMAS):

S. Res. 174. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of State should aggressively pursue the release of political and religious prisoners in Vietnam; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 1259. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to use stewardship contracting in a demonstration program to restore and maintain the ecological integrity and productivity of forest ecosystems to insure that the land and resources are passed to future generations in better condition than they were found; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

THE FOREST ECOSYSTEM STEWARDSHIP DEMONSTRATION ACT OF 1995

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I introduce the Forest Ecosystem Steward-

ship Demonstration Act of 1995. On May 18, 1995, my colleague from Montana, Congressman PAT WILLIAMS introduced this bill which would allow the experimental use by the U.S. Forest Service of a variety of stewardship contracts on private land.

About a month ago I held a meeting in Kalispell about the Forest Stewardship Demonstration Act of 1995. The meeting was attended by loggers, environmentalists, and timber landowners. I received input from many individuals, businesses and organizations, including the Montana Wilderness Association, the Montana Logging Association, the Flathead Audubon Society, the Montana Wilderness Association and the Flathead Economic Policy Center. I was pleased to see people from all walks of life joining together to find common ground on what is usually a divisive issue and reach a consensus on a sound land-management program for a section of private property near Columbia Falls. The stewardship plan, created by the Flathead Forestry Project, emphasizes forest management strategies that will allow contracts to be written with enough flexibility and diversity to accommodate each system's needs.

This bill does not add red tape; does not reduce competition; and does not eliminate any existing public participation processes or environmental laws. Instead, this bill allows public forest owners and resource managers to directly selected qualified forest contractors. This new contract format allows landowners to custom design their own specific plans. Contractors will work directly for the public. In turn, this will increase the pool of contractors who can bid on public forest projects.

We all know that it is in the best interest of our forests to manage our public lands in a manner that maintains their overall health. At the same time, it is important to recognize that these are public lands and citizens should be fully involved in participating in the decisions that affect our national forests.

The Forest Ecosystem Stewardship Demonstration Act of 1995 proposes a unique plan to protect the health of our forests while also protecting the economic well-being of those who utilize the natural resources that our forests have to offer us.

This bill will give the Flathead Forestry Project the opportunity to test this proposal on a section of private property in Montana. If successful, this plan can be used as a model for similar land management programs on public lands.

I want to recognize the hard work of some of the men and women in Montana who are personally responsible for this unique legislation; Floyd Quiram, Jack Jay, Rem Koht, Bob Stone, Carol Daly, Lex Blood, Keith Olson and Steve Thompson. I am proud to introduce this legislation on their behalf, and I urge my colleagues to give it their support.

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

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1259

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Forest Ecosystem Stewardship Demonstration Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS, PURPOSES, AND DEFINITIONS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following finding:

(1) In many of the units of the National Forest System, current conditions—such as unnatural fuel loads, high tree density, threat of catastrophic fires, disease, and insect infestations, habitat loss, and loss of historic species, stand diversity and integrity—adversely affect the biodiversity, health, and sustainability of the forest ecosystems of such units.

(2) A new and innovative contracting process for the National Forest System is required to meet Federal goals of improving forest resource conditions through implementation of ecosystem management.

(3) Ecosystem management is not just a biological concept. It is the convergence of a set of activities that is simultaneously ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially responsible.

(4) The improvement of the health and natural functioning of the forest resource is vital to the long-term viability of species found on National Forest System lands.

(5) Ecosystem restoration and conservation work performed with revenues from forest activities would improve employment opportunities in communities near units of the National Forest System to the benefit of long-term economic sustainability and community viability.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are as follows:

(1) To improve and restore the health of forest resources through implementation of ecosystem management.

(2) To provide for employment opportunities and economic health and viability for rural communities near units of the National Forest System.

(3) To provide for flexibility in procurement and funding practices to enter into stewardship contracts to achieve management objectives and requirements prescribed in the following provisions of law:

(A) The Act of June 4, 1897 (commonly known as the Organic Administration Act; 16 U.S.C. 473-475, 477-482, 551).

(B) The Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 528-531).

(C) The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600-1614).

(D) Section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a).

(E) The Act of May 23, 1908, and section 13 of the Act of March 1, 1911 (16 U.S.C. 500).

(F) The Federal Grants and Agreements Act of 1977 (31 U.S.C. 6303-6308).

(G) National Forest Fund Act of March 4, 1907 (16 U.S.C. 499).

(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

(1) ACCOUNT.—The term "Account" means the Stewardship Account established under section 4.

(2) DESIGN SPECIFICATION CONTRACT.—The term "design specification contract" is used to describe contracts in which the contracting entity specifically identifies all the tasks