

This Commission can provide needed review of inefficient and expensive corporate subsidies, requiring Congress to examine this spending in a timely manner.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 1377. A bill to provide authority for the assessment of cane sugar produced in the Everglades agricultural area of Florida, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

CANE SUGAR LEGISLATION

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I am introducing legislation today to establish an Everglades restoration fund. The Everglades restoration fund would be financed by a 2-cent-per-pound assessment on all cane sugar produced in the Everglades agricultural area, Florida. It is estimated that a 2-cents-per-pound assessment would produce revenues of \$70 million per year or approximately \$350 million over a 5-year period. These funds will be used for land acquisition in the Everglades agricultural area.

An Everglades restoration plan has been devised in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District. This plan calls for 131,000 acres of land within the southern Everglades agricultural area to be acquired at an estimated cost of \$355 million, assuming an acre cost of \$2,700 per acre.

I believe this plan is fair to Florida sugar producers. Because of the Federal sugar program, sugar prices in Florida are higher than they otherwise would be.

The sugar growers in the Everglades agricultural area are also beneficiaries of federally subsidized water projects which created agricultural lands in the Everglades agricultural area and which pump waters in and out of these lands as needed for sugar production. It is reasonable for these beneficiaries to help restore the unique ecosystem that these projects have degraded.

I am aware of the fact that the State of Florida has enacted the Everglades Forever Act, which imposes a tax of \$25 to \$35 per acre over 20 years to raise a total of \$322 million to improve water quality.

Sugar producers have also agreed to take other steps designed to improve water quality. These steps include compliance with phosphorous discharge standards and the creation of stormwater treatment areas to help filter phosphorous discharges and for other purposes. However, these measures are primarily related to improving water quality in the Everglades. My proposal is designed to restore the ecosystem to a natural condition with regard to water flows.

No more important or complex ecosystem in need of restoration exists in our Nation than the Everglades in south Florida. It is a troubled system, on the brink of collapse, largely caused by federally supported drainage construction designed to promote and pro-

tect agriculture. This problem is exacerbated by the Federal sugar program. Failure to act will doom the Everglades to accelerated deterioration, a tragic and totally unacceptable fate.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support this bill to restore the Everglades and to bring assurances to homeowners in Florida, to bring assurances to those who fear the end of the coral in the Keys, who are disturbed by the algae in the Florida Bay, and who, in fact, appreciate that a fine balance is created here between benefits given to the sugar producers and an assessment that will make all the difference in the restoration of the Everglades.

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

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

S. 1377

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

**SEC. 1 EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA.**

Section 206 of the Agricultural Act of 1949 (7 U.S.C. 1446g) is amended—

- (a) in subsection (i)—
  - (1) in paragraph (1)—
    - (A) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as (C);
    - (B) in subparagraph (A) by striking “and” after the semicolon; and
    - (C) by inserting “and” after the semicolon in subparagraph (B); and
    - (D) by inserting a new subparagraph (C) that reads as follows:

“(C) in the case of marketings from production from the Everglades Agricultural Area of Florida as determined by the Secretary, in addition to assessments under subparagraph B, the sum of 2 cents per pound of raw cane sugar for each of the 1996 through 2000 fiscal years;”

- (b) redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (k); and
- (c) by inserting a new subsection (j) that reads as follows:

“(j) EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA ACCOUNT—

(1) IN GENERAL.—  
“(A) ACCOUNT.—The Secretary shall establish an Everglades Agricultural Area Account as an account of the Commodity Credit Corporation.”

“(B) AREA.—The Secretary shall determine the extent of the Everglades Agricultural Area of Florida for the purposes of subsection (i)(1)(C) and subparagraph (C).”

“(C) COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION.—The funds collected from the assessment provided in subsection (i)(1)(C) shall be paid into the Everglades Agricultural Area Account of the Commodity Credit Corporation, and shall be available until expended.”

“(D) PURPOSES.—The Secretary is authorized and directed to transfer funds from the Everglades Agricultural Area Account to the South Florida Water Management District or other appropriate public entities for the purpose of purchasing agricultural lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area of Florida and for other related purposes.”

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 284

At the request of Mr. DOLE, the names of the Senator from Missouri

[Mr. ASHCROFT], the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY], and the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT] were added as cosponsors of S. 284, a bill to restore the term of patents, and for other purposes.

S. 356

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the name of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER] was added as a cosponsor of S. 356, a bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to declare English as the official language of the Government of the United States.

S. 607

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND] was added as a cosponsor of S. 607, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to clarify the liability of certain recycling transactions, and for other purposes.

S. 881

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 881, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify provisions relating to church pension benefit plans, to modify certain provisions relating to participants in such plans, to reduce the complexity of and to bring workable consistency to the applicable rules, to promote retirement savings and benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 1200

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. DODD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1200, a bill to establish and implement efforts to eliminate restrictions on the enclaved people of Cyprus.

S. 1316

At the request of Mr. KEMPTHORNE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1316, A bill to reauthorize and amend title XIV of the Public Health Service Act (commonly known as the Safe Drinking Water Act), and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 11

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Delaware [Mr. BIDEN] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, A concurrent resolution supporting a resolution to the long-standing dispute regarding Cyprus.

SENATE RESOLUTION 146

At the request of Mr. JOHNSTON, the names of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN], the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. PRESSLER], and the Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY] were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 146, A resolution designating the week beginning November 19, 1995, and the week beginning on November 24, 1996, as “National Family Week,” and for other purposes.