

the relationships of this nation with foreign countries to spare many nonconsenting women and young girls the inhumane and dangerous procedures associated with the custom or ritual of female genital mutilation or imprisonment for refusing such mutilation: Therefore, be it

“Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States of America, and the Congress of the United States of America to utilize the influence of the United States in international relations to end the custom or ritual of female genital mutilation in those countries where such procedures are presently practiced upon individuals who choose not to undergo such procedures and to grant political asylum to individuals who flee their homelands to escape the custom or ritual; and be it further

“Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States of America, to the presiding officers of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-651. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

“HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83

“Whereas, the United States Congress, by its authority to regulate commerce among the states, has repeatedly preempted state laws, including those relating to health, welfare, transportation, communications, banking, the environment, and civil justice, reducing the ability of state legislatures to be responsible to their constituents; and

“Whereas, more than half of all federal laws preempting states have been enacted by congress since 1969, intensifying an erosion of state power that leaves an essential part of our constitutional structure—federalism—standing precariously; and

“Whereas, the United States Constitution anticipates that our American federalism will allow differences among state laws, expecting people to seek change through their own legislatures without federal legislators representing other states preempting states to impose national laws; and

“Whereas, constitutional tension, necessary to protect liberty, arises from the fact that federal law is “the supreme Law of the Land”, while in contrast powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved to the states or to the people; and that tension can exist only when states are not preempted and thus remain credible powers in the federal system; and

“WHEREAS, less federal preemption means states can act as laboratories of democracy, seeking novel social and economic policies without risk to the nation; and

“WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures has stated well the dynamic nature of federalism and the need for freedom of the states to act in areas reserved to them, noting that federalism anticipates diversity, that the unity of the states does not anticipate uniformity, and that every preemptive law diminishes other expressions of self-government and should be approved only where compelling need and broad consensus exist; and

“WHEREAS, S. 1629, the proposed Tenth Amendment Enforcement Act of 1996, is designed to create mechanisms for careful consideration of proposals that would preempt states in areas historically within their purview through procedural mechanisms in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, namely:

“In the Legislative branch by requiring a statement of constitutional authority and an expression of the intent to preempt states,

“In the Executive branch, by curbing agencies that may preempt beyond their legislative authority, and

“In the Judicial branch, by codifying judicial deference to state laws where the congress is not clear in its intent to preempt: Therefore, be it

“Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to enact the proposed Tenth Amendment Enforcement Act of 1996, does further urge and request the Louisiana congressional delegation to co-sponsor the legislation, and does urge and request the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States, to sign the legislation into law when it is presented to him for signature; and be it further

“Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

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. GRAHAM:

S. 1933. A bill to authorize a certificate of documentation for certain vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BROWN:

S. 1934. A bill to provide for an exchange of lands with the city of Greeley, CO, and the Water Supply & Storage Co. to eliminate private inholdings in wilderness areas, to cause instream flows to be created above a wild and scenic river, to eliminate potential development on private inholdings within the forest boundary, to reduce the need for future water reservoirs, to reduce the number of Federal land use authorizations, and to improve the security of the water of the city and the company, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BRADLEY:

S. 1935. A bill to provide for improved information collection and dissemination by the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1936. A bill to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982; read the first time.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. BURNS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, and Mr. BOND):

S. Res. 277. A resolution to express the sense of the Senate that, to ensure continuation of a competitive free-market system in the cattle and beef markets, the Secretary of Agriculture and Attorney General should use existing legal authorities to monitor commerce and practices in the cattle and beef markets for potential antitrust violations, the Secretary of Agriculture should increase reporting practices regarding domestic commerce in the beef and cattle markets (includ-

ing exports and imports), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BRADLEY:

S. 1935. A bill to provide for improved information collection and dissemination by the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

THE PUBLIC TRUST AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. BRADLEY. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Public Trust and Environmental Accountability Act to improve collection, retrieval, and dissemination of vital environmental data needed for community information and disaster response.

For the first time, under the Public Trust and Environmental Accountability Act, firefighters, plant neighbors, local governments, and the general public will have easy access to complete data on a plant's permit compliance and plant operation. Not only will the public be able to discover whether their local facility has had past environmental violations but they will also be able to research that company's compliance history throughout the United States using just one consolidated file, available by computer search.

For example, last year, when the Napp Technologies plant in Lodi, NJ, exploded, the community surrounding the plant had little knowledge of what went on within the plant gates. If the Public Trust and Environmental Accountability Act had been in effect, local citizens would have known: what chemicals were stored onsite; what permits were held by the plant; what violations had occurred; whether there had been any accidents or releases of chemicals; and, when the plant was last inspected.

Currently, data collected by the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] is scattered and fragmented across the Agency or left in files at the State level. Instead of centralizing and coordinating all data by plant or location, much of EPA's information is kept in numerous duplicative files in the Agency's separate program offices where it is divided arbitrarily by the type of pollutant under regulation such as air, water, or solid waste. Thus using EPA data to build a complete compliance profile of a particular plant is both time consuming and unnecessarily difficult.

However, my bill streamlines this unwieldy system by directing EPA to enhance access, encourage public use, and improve management of public information that it has collected under the Agency's many environmental statutes, pollution prevention initiatives and environmental permitting requirements. Under the act, EPA would create standard formats for information