

concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

AMENDMENT NO. 330

At the request of Mr. ROBB his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 330 proposed to S. Con. Res. 27, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

AMENDMENT NO. 336

At the request of Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN the name of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BAUCUS] was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 336 proposed to S. Con. Res. 27, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

At the request of Mr. ROBB his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 336 proposed to S. Con. Res. 27, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 340

At the request of Mr. SPECTER the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM], the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN], the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK], the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO], the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS], the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE], the Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS], the Senator from Texas [Mrs. HUTCHISON], the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN], and the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 340 proposed to S. Con. Res. 27, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

AMENDMENT NO. 344

At the request of Mr. LEAHY his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 344 proposed to S. Con. Res. 27, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 344 proposed to S. Con. Res. 27, supra.

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE the names of the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. TORRICELLI], the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. AKAKA], the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN], the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD], the Senator from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN], the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. DODD], the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID], and the Senator from Nevada [Mr. BRYAN] were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 344 proposed to S. Con. Res. 27, supra.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 28—RELATIVE TO A STUDY OF MERCURY

Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. CON. RES. 28

Whereas there has been a two-to-threefold global increase in mercury in the environment since the 1850's, increases of 3 times have been found in wilderness areas of the United States, and much higher increases have been found in developed areas of the United States;

Whereas mercury is truly a State, national, and international concern because mercury is atmospherically transported indiscriminately across political boundaries;

Whereas atmospheric deposition resulting from human activities, including area sources, waste incineration and disposal, and fossil fuel burning contributes to mercury loading in the environment;

Whereas mercury is a persistent bio-accumulative toxic substance that presents particular problems in aquatic systems;

Whereas fish consumption advisories have been issued for at least 1,500 water bodies in 37 States, including Vermont, because of high levels of mercury contamination in fish, resulting in losses to tourism and fishing industries and related activities;

Whereas, according to estimates by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, each year in the United States between 80,000 and 85,000 pregnant women are exposed to mercury levels high enough to produce risk to their children;

Whereas the study of mercury required under section 112(n)(1)(B) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412(n)(1)(B)), required to be completed by November 15, 1994, represents the best information in the world on the use, generation, and disposal of mercury;

Whereas the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency effectively completed the draft report in 1995, but has continually delayed submittal of the study to Congress;

Whereas there are known substitutes for most mercury-containing products and devices, except for high-efficiency lighting;

Whereas over 500,000,000 mercury-containing lamps are annually produced in the United States, representing one of the largest sources of mercury in municipal waste streams, and typical waste management practices involve compaction, which results in mercury releases, before and during disposal;

Whereas landfill air emissions test data for mercury is lacking;

Whereas the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency is establishing simultaneously maximum achievable control technologies for mercury sources pursuant to the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), proposing tightening water quality criteria for mercury under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), placing priority on mercury-contaminated superfund sites, but is proposing to exempt mercury-containing lamps from hazardous waste regulations;

Whereas the United States and Canada have jointly agreed in the Agreement on Air Quality, Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality, 1978, and Agreement on Virtual Elimination of Persistent Toxic Substances in the Great Lakes Basin to control transboundary emissions and to cooperate on research and development projects to elimi-

nate toxic substances, including mercury; and

Whereas Federal and State governments have taken many actions to reduce mercury in the environment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency should—

(1) immediately release to Congress the study of mercury required under section 112(n)(1)(B) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412(n)(1)(B));

(2) initiate a pilot program for landfill air emission tests for mercury in the Northeast and nationally; and

(3) not exempt mercury-containing lamps from hazardous waste regulations, but should instead adopt universal waste rules that foster mercury recycling.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to draw the Senate's attention to something that is going on at the Environmental Protection Agency that is of great concern to many of our House and Senate colleagues, and to myself. For the past year, I have been working with the Environmental Protection Agency, the White House and now, the Science Advisory Board, to release a 1,700-page report on the sources, health risks, and control measure for mercury pollution in our country. This report is the best and most complete assemblage of state-of-the-art information to date on the sources and health effects of mercury pollution. It has undergone extensive internal and external peer review. American taxpayers have already paid more than \$1 million in contract dollars and for more than 25,000 hours of staff time to develop this report. Had the report been submitted to the Congress when it was effectively completed roughly 17 months ago, the information it contains would have been available to the public and for use by State and Federal decisionmakers.

Because of the widespread public and congressional concern over the health and environmental effects of mercury pollution, the 1990 Clean Air amendments required the EPA to conduct a study of mercury and submit that study to Congress by November 1994. Instead, the EPA submitted the report to the Science Advisory Board for review because new studies are expected to be published over the next 2 years. Well, as we all know, one thing you can be sure of in this world is that researchers will continue to research; there will always be new studies, and this is as it should be. We need sound science to make public policy decisions. But we also need up-to-date science, and that is what this report offers. As time passes, the information contained in the report becomes increasingly less useful for regulatory and judicial decisions.

Mercury poses a serious and growing public health and environmental threat to our Nation. Thirty-seven States have issued human health consumption advisories because of unacceptable levels of mercury in freshwater fish. According to EPA estimates, as many as

85,000 pregnant women are exposed to mercury levels high enough to produce risks to their children. Yet many States cannot identify the sources and quantities of this pollutant or address the problems that arise both within and outside State borders.

We Vermonters are deeply concerned about what is being transported by air currents across our borders. Acid rain taught us that our tough laws on the environment were not enough to protect us. We could be affected from other areas of the country whose environmental standards may not be as high as our own. Yet despite these standards, Vermont and other States have become a dumping ground. We saw some of our healthiest forests die off from pollution that came from outside our region. Unlike the many compounds causing acid rain, mercury does not break down. It circulates through the environment. It is not going to go away when we turn off the tap. It will settle in the lakes, streams, and soils of those States that were also the dumping ground for acid rain.

The public has a right to this report and the States need it to make sensible decisions about reducing mercury in the environment. Instead, it has been sitting on the shelf for nearly 2 years now. By holding back the mercury report, the administration is denying to Federal and State regulatory bodies and to the public information that will be critical to the revision of health advisories, air pollution measures, and utility restructuring proposals. But releasing the report is only the first step in addressing mercury pollution. The concurrent resolution I am submitting today also addresses the need to reduce mercury releases into the environment.

One major source of mercury is municipal waste due to the disposal of mercury-containing lamps. EPA has proposed a rule to either exempt mercury-containing lamps from hazardous waste regulations or to include them in the universal waste rule, but EPA has made little progress since 1995. Exempting mercury-containing lamps from the hazardous waste rule would allow more than 500 million lamps to be deposited in solid waste landfills or conveyed to waste incinerators, perpetuating the uncontrolled release of mercury into the environment. In Vermont, we are building a recycling industry to collect mercury-containing lamps. We are trying to keep mercury out of our waste stream. Without a Federal effort to encourage the same preventive steps in other States, this effort will be for naught. By including mercury-containing lamps in the universal waste rule, we would encourage recycling and the elimination of these products from the municipal solid waste stream.

Another integral step in addressing mercury pollution is development of a better inventory of mercury emissions. One of the recommendations of the mercury report is to acquire test data on notable sources of mercury. My con-

current resolution calls upon EPA to begin landfill testing in pilot sites across the country. Several States have already expressed an interest in testing, and Florida has already begun testing at landfills. The only testing conducted at the Federal level was in New York City where two studies raised contradictory findings. In a 1994 Minnesota study, more than 10 percent of the overall emissions of mercury were attributed to landfills. We need to verify these initial findings through a national pilot program. Unfortunately, the 1,700-page mercury report does not include an examination of landfills.

It is my hope that by releasing the mercury report, promulgating regulations on disposal of mercury-containing lamps and testing for mercury emissions, we will lay the groundwork for the long-overdue reduction of mercury from several sources. I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues, Senators WELLSTONE, JEFFORDS, LEVIN, MOYNIHAN, FEINGOLD, and DODD, in submitted this Senate concurrent resolution. I hope that this resolution will draw to this issue the attention not only of the Senate, but also of the administration.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 10 a.m., on Thursday, May 22, 1997, in open session, to receive testimony on the Quadrennial Defense Review.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 22, 1997, to conduct a hearing on the following nominees: Mr. James A. Harmon, of New York, to be the president of the Export-Import Bank of the United States; and Ms. Jackie M. Clegg, of Utah, to be the first vice president of the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 22, 1997, to conduct a hearing on electronic funds transfer and electronic benefit transfer and the effect of these programs on Federal benefit recipients.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on May 22, 1995, at 9:30 a.m. on oversight of professional boxing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on Thursday, May 22, at 4 p.m. for a markup.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to hold an executive business meeting during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 22, 1997, at 10 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 22, 1997, beginning at 9:30 a.m. until business is completed, to hold a hearing to consider revisions to title 44/GPO: Review and Recommendations of Draft Legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 22, 1997, at 2 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, BUSINESS RIGHTS, AND COMPETITION

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition, of the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 22, 1997, at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing on: "Antitrust Implications of the College Bowl Alliance."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Communications Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation be authorized to meet on May 22, 1997, at 2 p.m. on S. 442—Internet Tax Freedom Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday,