

quality, flood control, outdoor recreation, and other areas of concern; estimated historic, current, and future losses of estuary habitat; the most appropriate method for selecting estuary restoration projects; and procedures to minimize duplicative application requirements for landowners seeking assistance for habitat restoration activities.

Selection of Projects.—The Council is required to establish application criteria for restoration projects based on a number of criteria, including: the level of support from non-Federal persons for the development and long-term maintenance and monitoring of the project; whether the project criteria fall within the habitat restoration strategy developed by the Council and are set forth in existing estuary habitat restoration plans; whether the State has a dedicated fund for estuary restoration; the level of private funding for the restoration project; and the technical merit and feasibility of the proposal.

Priority Projects.—Among the projects that meet the criteria listed above, the Council shall give priority for funding to those projects that: are part of an approved Federal estuary management or habitat restoration plan; address a restoration goal outlined in the habitat restoration strategy; have a non-Federal share that exceeds 50 percent; and are subject to a nonpoint source program that addresses upstream sources that would otherwise re-impair the restored habitat.

The Council may not select a project under this section until each non-Federal interest participating in the project has entered into a written cooperation agreement to provide for the maintenance and monitoring of the proposed project. This section authorizes \$4,000,000 for the operating expenses of the Council.

SEC. 7.—HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT COST-SHARING

This section strengthens local and private-sector participation in estuary restoration efforts by building public-private restoration partnerships. It establishes a non-Federal share match requirement of no less than 35 percent but no more than 75 percent of the cost of a project. A project applicant may waive the 35 percent minimum requirement; however, if the applicant demonstrates a need for a reduced non-Federal share in accordance with the requirements of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986. Land easements, services, or other in-kind contributions may be used to meet the Act's non-Federal match requirements.

SEC. 8.—MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE OF HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS

This section assures that available information will be used to improve the methods for assuring successful long-term habitat restoration. To that end, it requires the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere (NOAA) to maintain a database of restoration projects carried out under this Act, including information on project techniques, project completion, monitoring data, and other relevant information.

This section also requires the Collaborative Council to publish a biennial report to Congress that includes program activities, including the number of acres restored; the percent of restored habitat monitored under a plan; the types of restoration methods employed; the activities of governmental and non-governmental entities with respect to habitat restoration; and the effectiveness of the restoration.

SEC. 9.—MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING

This section authorizes the Council to enter into cooperative agreements and execute memoranda of understanding with Fed-

eral and State agencies, private institutions, and Indian tribes, as necessary to carry out the requirements of this Act.

SEC. 10.—DISTRIBUTION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECTS

This section authorizes the Secretary to disburse funds to the other agencies responsible for carrying out the requirements of this Act.

SEC. 11.—AUTHORIZATIONS

This section provides that funds currently authorized to be appropriated for the Corps of Engineers for land acquisition, environmental improvements and aquatic ecosystem restoration may be used to implement habitat restoration projects selected by the Council. This section also authorizes appropriations of \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 1999; \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2000; and \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2003 to carry out this Act.

SEC. 12.—GENERAL PROVISIONS

This section provides the Secretary with the authority to carry out responsibilities under this Act, and it clarifies that habitat restoration is one of the Corps' primary missions. It further clarifies that nothing in this Act supersedes existing Federal or State laws, and that agencies are required to carry out activities in a manner consistent with the provisions of this Act and other existing laws.

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I am pleased and honored to join with my friend and colleague, Senator JOHN CHAFEE, chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, to introduce legislation to restore America's estuaries. Our bill is entitled the "Estuary Habitat Restoration Partnership Act of 1997".

Estuaries are a national resource and treasure. As a nation, therefore, we should work together at all levels and in all sectors to help restore them.

I am also pleased that 15 other Senators have joined with Senator CHAFEE and me as original cosponsors of the bill. Together, we want to draw attention to the significant value of the Nation's estuaries and the need to restore them.

It is also my distinct pleasure today to say with pride that Louisianians have been in the forefront of this movement to recognize the importance of estuaries and to propose legislation to restore them. The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, an organization which is well known for its proactive work on behalf of the Louisiana coast, has been from the inception an integral part of the national coalition, Restore America's Estuaries, which has proposed and supports the restoration legislation.

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and Restore America's Estuaries are to be commended for their leadership and initiative in bringing this issue to the Nation's attention.

In essence, the bill introduced today proposes a single goal and has one emphasis and focus. It seeks to create a voluntary, community-driven, incentive-based program which builds partnerships between the Federal Government, State, and local governments and the private sector to restore estuaries, including sharing in the cost of restoration projects.

In Louisiana, we have very valuable estuaries, including the Ponchartrain, Barataria-Terrebonne, and Vermilion Bay systems. Louisiana's estuaries are vital because they have helped and will continue to help sustain local communities, their cultures and their economies.

I encourage Senators from coastal and noncoastal States alike to evaluate the bill and to join in its support with Senator CHAFEE, me and the 15 other Senators who are original bill cosponsors.

I look forward to working with Senator CHAFEE and other Senators on behalf of the bill and with the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and Restore America's Estuaries.

By working together at all levels of government and in the private and public sectors, we can help to restore estuaries. As important, we can, together, help to educate the public about the important roles which estuaries play in our daily lives through their many contributions to public safety and well-being, to the environment, and to recreation and commerce.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 9

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 9, a bill to protect individuals from having their money involuntarily collected and used for politics by a corporation or labor organization.

S. 61

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the names of the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG] and the Senator from Arizona [Mr. MCCAIN] were added as cosponsors of S. 61, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to extend eligibility for veterans' burial benefits, funeral benefits, and related benefits for veterans of certain service in the United States merchant marine during World War II.

S. 114

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the name of the Senator from Colorado [Mr. CAMPBELL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 114, a bill to repeal the reduction in the deductible portion of expenses for business meals and entertainment.

S. 364

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Georgia [Mr. COVERDELL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 364, a bill to provide legal standards and procedures for suppliers of raw materials and component parts for medical devices.

S. 845

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 845, a bill to transfer to the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to conduct the census of agriculture, and for other purposes.

S. 852

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 852,

a bill to establish nationally uniform requirements regarding the titling and registration of salvage, nonrepairable, and rebuilt vehicles.

S. 1008

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1008, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the tax incentives for alcohol used as a fuel shall be extended as part of any extension of fuel tax rates.

S. 1096

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. NICKLES] and the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH] were added as cosponsors of S. 1096, a bill to restructure the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

S. 1105

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. GRAMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1105, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a sound budgetary mechanism for financing health and death benefits of retired coal miners while ensuring the long-term fiscal health and solvency of such benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 1178

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. DODD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1178, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend the visa waiver pilot program, and for other purposes.

S. 1194

At the request of Mr. KYL, the names of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY], the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN], the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. SMITH], and the Senator from Colorado [Mr. ALLARD] were added as cosponsors of S. 1194, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the right of Medicare beneficiaries to enter into private contracts with physicians and other health care professionals for the provision of health services for which no payment is sought under the Medicare program.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 48

At the request of Mr. KYL, the names of the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER], the Senator from Nevada [Mr. BRYAN], the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND], the Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS], the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG], the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE], the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. DODD], the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI], the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. FAIRCLOTH], the Senator from Florida [Mr. GRAHAM], the Senator from Minnesota [Mr. GRAMS], the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY], the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON], the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE], the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. LIEBERMAN], the Senator from Florida [Mr. MACK], the Senator from Kansas [Mr. ROBERTS],

the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM], the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. SMITH], the Senator from Oregon [Mr. SMITH], and the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER] were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 48, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding proliferation of missile technology from Russia to Iran.

SENATE RESOLUTION 126—ORIGINAL RESOLUTION REPORTED AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. SPECTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, reported the following original resolution; which was placed on the calendar:

S. RES. 126

Resolved, That section 18(b) of Senate Resolution 54, 105th Congress, agreed to February 3, 1997, is amended by striking out "\$1,123,430" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$1,698,430".

SENATE RESOLUTION 127—REGARDING A PLANNED STATE VISIT

Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. HELMS, and Mr. WELLSTONE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 127

Whereas the President of the People's Republic of China is tentatively scheduled to begin a state visit in Washington, D.C., on October 29, 1997;

Whereas a state visit, unlike a working-level visit, involve the highest-level protocol that can be afforded a foreign head of state;

Whereas on December 13, 1995, a Beijing court sentenced Wei Jingsheng to 14 years in prison for peacefully advocating democracy and political reforms in China.

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China had previously imprisoned Wei Jingsheng from 1979 to 1993, also for peacefully promoting human rights and democracy in China;

Whereas Wei Jingsheng is just one of hundreds, if not thousands, of other political, religious, and labor dissidents who are imprisoned in China and Tibet for peacefully expressing their beliefs and exercising their internationally recognized rights of free association and expression.

Whereas like other prisoners, Wei Jingsheng is in poor health and Chinese authorities refuse to provide him with proper medical care; and

Whereas the Department of State 1996 Human Rights Report states: "[t]he Government [of the People's Republic of China] continued to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses, in violation of international accepted norms, stemming from the authorities' intolerance of dissent, fear of unrest, and the absence or inadequacy of laws protecting basic freedoms.": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the President should not host a state visit by the President of the People's Republic of China until—

(1) the Government of the People's Republic of China immediately and unconditionally releases Wei Jingsheng, Wang Dan, and

a significant number of other prisoners of conscience held in prison in China and Tibet;

(2) the Government of the People's Republic of China takes immediate steps toward improving the conditions under which political, religious, and labor dissidents are imprisoned in China and Tibet, including providing prisoners with adequate medical care and allowing international humanitarian agencies access to detention facilities; and

(3) the Government of the People's Republic of China makes significant progress toward improving overall human rights conditions in China and Tibet, including taking concrete steps to grant freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of association in compliance with international human rights standards.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution regarding the upcoming State visit by the President of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Jiang Zemin.

As we all know, President Clinton plans to host Mr. Jiang on a State visit to Washington at the end of October. The resolution I am offering today is a sense of the Senate resolution that states that President Jiang should not be given a red carpet welcome in our Nation's Capital until we see some progress on human rights in China. Specifically, the resolution calls for China to release Wei Jingsheng and other prisoners of conscience from jail as a precondition for a State visit.

By agreeing to this State visit without receiving any concession on human rights, the administration may be squandering perhaps its strongest source of leverage with Beijing. The Chinese Government has been pressing for such a visit in Washington for several years. The Chinese want to be treated like a great power. An invitation to the White House not only bestows legitimacy on the Communist regime, it will boost the prestige of President Jiang and help him to solidify his position as Deng Xiaoping's successor. In short, China needs this State visit more than the United States does.

Agreeing to invite the President of China to the White House before any improvement is made on human rights will send a terrible message. It will confirm what many Chinese leaders already believe—that the United States offers lots of rhetoric on human rights, but no action, and that the United States ultimately cares more about trade than political prisoners.

Judging by the administration's China policy, it is easy to see why the leadership in Beijing would come to such a conclusion. In 1994, the President delinked most-favored-nation trade status from human rights. This was a serious mistake. What we have seen since the delinkage is the reincarceration of political dissidents and increased repression in Tibet.

Just this past April, at the meeting of the U.N. Human Rights Commission, the United States mounted what I view as a half-hearted attempt to win passage of a resolution critical of China's human rights record. As we all know, that resolution failed to pass, and some of our close allies—including France,