

Users Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the annual report for fiscal year 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3090. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the St. Paul Island Harbor, Alaska; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3091. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a deep-draft navigation project at Chignik Harbor, Alaska; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3092. A communication from the Acting Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act, case number 96-03; to the Committee on Appropriations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation To Subcommittees of Budget Totals from the Concurrent Resolution for Fiscal Year 1998" (Rept. No. 105-91).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 750. A bill to consolidate certain mineral interests in the National Grasslands in Billings County, North Dakota, through the exchange of Federal and private mineral interests to enhance land management capabilities and environmental and wildlife protection, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-92).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1158. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, regarding the Huna Totem Corporation public interest land exchange, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-93).

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amended preamble:

H. Con. Res. 8. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the significance of maintaining the health and stability of coral reef ecosystems (Rept. No. 105-94).

By Mr. WARNER, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, without amendment:

S. Res. 126. An original resolution authorizing supplemental expenditures by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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. ENZI (for himself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. FRIST, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. COATS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. BURNS, Mr. HAGEL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. BROWNBAC, and Mr. NICKLES):

S. 1237. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to further improve the safety and health of working environments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. SMITH of Oregon:

S. 1238. A bill to amend section 1926 of the Public Health Service Act to encourage States to strengthen their efforts to prevent the sale and distribution of tobacco products to individuals under the age of 18 and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. ABRAHAM:

S. 1239. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on ethofumesate; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1240. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on phenmedipham; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 1241. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on desmedipham; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. ENZI (for himself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. FRIST, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. COATS, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. BURNS, Mr. HAGEL, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. WARNER, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. BROWNBAC, and Mr. NICKLES):

S. 1237. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to further improve the safety and health of working environments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE SAFETY ADVANCEMENT FOR EMPLOYEES ACT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Safety Advancement for Employees Act of 1997. I send the bill to the desk.

Mr. President, I ask that further reading of the bill be dispensed with.

Mr. President, during this first Session of the 105th Congress, my esteemed colleague from New Hampshire, Senator GREGG, and I, each introduced a bill related to workplace safety and health. On July 10, a comprehensive OSHA oversight hearing was held by Chairman FRIST in the Subcommittee on Public Health and Safety. This hearing specifically focused on OSHA modernization legislation pending before the committee. The results of this hearing further confirmed the commitment Senator GREGG and I share concerning the safety and health of our Nation's workforce.

It is with great pleasure that Senator GREGG and I, introduce this consensus legislation. The SAFE Act has the support of Subcommittee Chairman FRIST, as well as Labor Committee Chairman JEFFORDS. Both are proud to be original cosponsors and I am sincerely grateful to them for all their hard work. They have clearly helped pave the way for this important measure. In addition, my House colleague and chairman of the Small Business Committee, JIM TALENT, will introduce

similar legislation in the House today. This legislation has received strong bipartisan support—an essential ingredient in the recipe for success.

It is important to understand that both the Senate and House versions do not attempt to reinvent OSHA's wheel, just change its tires. Treading water for 27 years, OSHA has never seriously attempted to encourage employers and employees in their efforts to create safe and healthful workplaces. Instead, OSHA chose to operate according to a command and control mentality. This approach has led to burdensome and often incomprehensible regulations which may not relate to worker safety and health and are, quite often, only sporadically enforced. Even the AFL-CIO has acknowledged that with only 2,451 State and Federal inspectors regulating 6.2 million American worksites, an employer can expect to see an inspector once every 167 years.

While changing OSHA's bald tires, it is important to point out that the SAFE Act does not dismantle OSHA's enforcement capabilities. That approach has been tried time and time again. But, enforcement alone cannot ensure the safety of our Nation's workplaces and the health of our working population. America would be better served by an OSHA that places a greater emphasis on promoting employers and employees working together and this bill would strike that balance.

The SAFE Act is geared to provide employers who seek a safe and healthful workplace for their employees with the ability to obtain compliance evaluations from qualified, third party consultants. In addition, the SAFE Act includes additional voluntary and technical compliance initiatives to assist employers in deeming their worksites safe for their employees. Businesses and employees need clarification on a whole host of issues. They need progress, now. We need good common-sense legislation that advances safety and health of the American workplace, now.

Senator GREGG and I are not interested in making another political statement. It is time for us to tuck the political statements into our coat pockets and pass good common sense legislation that advances the safety and health of the American workplace. Advancing safety and health in the American workplace is a matter of great importance and it must be considered in a serious and rational manner by Congress, by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, by employers, and yes, by employees too.

Mr. President, I firmly believe that the SAFE Act represents a clean start to addressing the problems that affect OSHA and its dealings with employers and employees. Senator GREGG and I, are quite eager to continue working with my Senate and House colleagues on this important matter. By working together in a bipartisan fashion, we can ensure our Nation's work force that Congress does care about their