

including ethanol, is an important environmental consideration and a powerful demonstration of green chemistry. As my friend Jim Woolsey is fond of saying, "If a second Exxon Valdez filled with ethanol ran aground off Alaska, it would produce a lot of evaporation and some drunk seals."

By providing farmers of the world the possibility of additional commodity products, whether dedicated crops or income from collection of agricultural residues, biomass processing can lead to healthier rural economies. A major strength of the new technologies for breaking down cellulosic biomass is that almost any type of plant, tree, or agricultural waste can be used as a source of fuel. This high degree of flexibility allows farmers the possibility of a cash crop simply by collecting their agricultural wastes. Local crops that enrich the soil, prevent erosion and improve local environmental conditions can be planted and then harvested for fuel. My firm belief is that innovations in biotechnology enabling the co-production of food, fuel, chemicals and materials from the sustainable supply of cellulosic biomass, are vital to the future of agriculture.

While undertaking this effort, I remain mindful that biofuels must be produced in ways that enhance overall environmental quality. Sound land-use policies must be followed to protect wildlife habitat and biological diversity concerns. But professional land-use techniques should readily accomplish this.

Providing an alternative fuel that will power the internal combustion engine of the automobile will help reduce our dependence on Middle Eastern oil without necessitating a rebuilding of the massive infrastructure built in support of gasoline. Reliance on the unstable states of the Middle East adversely impacts American strategic security, while massive oil imports skew our balance of payments. With the need for affordable energy rising with increasing population, and the transportation sector fueled almost exclusively by fossil fuels, the Middle East will control something approaching three-quarters of the world's oil in the coming century, providing that unstable region with a disproportionate leverage over diplomatic affairs. At a time when the United States confronts an ill-defined and confused drama of events on the international stage, including an increasingly assertive China, and nuclear and missile technology proliferation to North Korea, it seems clear we should dedicate a relatively small amount of money toward research that could lead to a revolution in the way we produce and consume energy. Or as presented by a distinguished panel of scientists and industrial experts in a recent PCAST report, "... the security of the United States is at least as likely to be imperiled in the first half of the next century by the consequences of inadequacies in the energy options available to the world as by inadequacies in

the capabilities of U.S. weapons systems." The report succinctly concludes, "It is striking that the Federal government spends about twenty times more R&D money on the latter problem than on the former."

Before we are able to reap the significant benefits offered by biobased industrial products, the cost of the new conversion technology must be significantly reduced. Research and development is the only systematic means for creating the innovations and technical improvements that will lower the costs of biomass processing. Given the relatively short-term horizon characteristic of private sector investments, and because many benefits of biomass processing are in the public interest, industry is ill-equipped to fund the necessary fundamental research that will result in cost effective technologies for biomass conversion.

Research activities carried out by the Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy and other Federal agencies are a principal reason for much of the progress witnessed in biomass processing and underscore the future promise if new technology is developed. Nonetheless, coordination among the Federal agencies is disjointed and the research tends to be driven by institutional missions rather than by an overarching strategy to develop cost-effective technologies for biomass conversion. The National Sustainable Fuels and Chemicals Act is designed to overcome these shortcomings and raise the level of the Federal commitment to biotechnologies that are already demonstrating potential as powerful new alternatives to the traditional practices of the past.

In this effort, I am asking for the support of President Clinton and Vice President GORE who have indicated their commitment to the development of sustainable resources. On this issue we can develop a consensus for undertaking research that will improve our national security and balance of payments, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen rural economies in America and around the world. Working together we can promote the type of innovation-focused research essential for improvements in the utilization of America's biomass resource. It is my firm belief that future Americans will enjoy a rich return on our investment in the promise of a green revolution.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 98

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 98, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Surface Transportation Board for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 348

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Kentucky

[Mr. BUNNING] and the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] were added as cosponsors of S. 348, a bill to authorize and facilitate a program to enhance training, research and development, energy conservation and efficiency, and consumer education in the oilheat industry for the benefit of oilheat consumers and the public, and for other purposes.

S. 414

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND] and the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER] were added as cosponsors of S. 414, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a 5-year extension of the credit for producing electricity from wind, and for other purposes.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. KERREY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to improve the National Writing Project.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 579, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to target assistance to support the economic and political independence of the countries of the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

S. 662

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the names of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. BOND] and the Senator from Florida [Mr. GRAHAM] were added as cosponsors of S. 662, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide medical assistance for certain women screened and found to have breast or cervical cancer under a federally funded screening program.

S. 783

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] was added as a cosponsor of S. 783, a bill to limit access to body armor by violent felons and to facilitate the donation of Federal surplus body armor to State and local law enforcement agencies.

S. 880

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] and the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER] were added as cosponsors of S. 880, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to remove flammable fuels from the list of substances with respect to which reporting and other activities are required under the risk management plan program

S. 918

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 918, a bill to authorize the Small Business Administration to provide financial and business development assistance to military reservists' small business, and for other purposes.

S. 926

At the request of Mr. WARNER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 926, a bill to provide the people of Cuba with access to food and medicines from the United States, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 29

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. GREGG] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 29, a resolution to designate the week of May 2, 1999, as "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week".

SENATE RESOLUTION 33

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 33, a resolution designating May 1999 as "National Military Appreciation Month".

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, her name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 33, *supra*.

At the request of Mr. BRYAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 33, *supra*.

SENATE RESOLUTION 84

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. BYRD] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 84, a resolution to designate the month of May, 1999, as "National Alpha 1 Awareness Month".

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce that on Wednesday, May 5, 1999, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold an oversight hearing on Damage to the National Security from Chinese Espionage at DOE Nuclear Weapons Laboratories. The hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m., in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, DC. A portion of the hearing may be closed for national security reasons.

Those who wish further information may write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, April 30, 1999, at 11 a.m., to hold a business meeting.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Subcommittee on Aging be authorized to meet for a hearing on "Older Americans Act" during the ses-

sion of the Senate on Friday, April 30, 1999, at 11 a.m.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MADE IN USA LABEL DEFENSE ACT—S. 922

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, although I had asked yesterday that the full text of my bill, S. 922, the Made in USA Label Defense Act, be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD along with my introductory statement, a different bill was printed and erroneously labelled S. 922.

Mr. President, to eliminate any confusion, I ask that the actual text of my bill, S. 922, the Made in USA Label Defense Act, be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 922

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Made in USA Label Defense Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. RESTRICTIONS ON GOODS IMPORTED FROM NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

The joint resolution entitled "Joint Resolution to approve the 'Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America', and for other purposes", approved March 24, 1976 (48 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

"SEC. 7. PROHIBITION ON IDENTIFICATION OF CERTAIN GOODS AS MADE IN THE UNITED STATES.

"Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no product that is made in the Northern Mariana Islands shall have a stamp, tag, label, or other means of identification or substitute therefor on or affixed to the product stating 'Made in the USA' or otherwise stating or implying that the product was made or assembled in the United States.

"SEC. 8. DUTY-FREE TREATMENT OF PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY UNITED STATES CITIZENS.

"Notwithstanding General Note 3(a)(iv) of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, any provision of the covenant set forth in the first section of this joint resolution, or any other provision of law, no product that is made in the Northern Mariana Islands shall be admitted free of duty or quotas into the customs territory of the United States as the product of a United States insular possession."

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act apply to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after the date of enactment of this Act.●

RECOGNIZING HAWAII'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEROES

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the work and accomplishments of a team of individuals in Hawaii who have been honored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration (NOAA) as 1999 "Environmental Heroes." We seldom take the time to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of those working at the community level, with high school students, far from Washington, D.C. Their dedication can make a big difference in people's lives and the health of our environment.

Honored in Hawaii were Hawaii Sea Grant's Extension Director Bruce Miller, Hawaii State Representative Brian Schatz, and Youth for Environment Service Coordinator Sean Casey.

This marks the third year that NOAA has recognized individuals and organizations throughout the United States for their "tireless efforts to preserve and protect the nation's environment." The 1999 NOAA Class of Environmental Heroes included 34 individuals or programs, and the honorees are traditionally announced as part of Earth Day activities nationwide. Each honoree was also sent personal commendations from Vice President Al Gore who congratulated this year's heroes for their commitment and accomplishments in protecting the environment of our nation.

The Hawaii team was recognized for their creation of Youth for Environmental Service, called YES. The YES program educates and engages K-12 students in discussions of local environmental issues and activities that sustain the environment. YES gives students a chance to get involved through projects such as restoring trails, planting trees, picking up litter from beaches and streams, and more. To date, YES has given presentations to more than 65,000 students in 450 schools, involved 25,000 students in environmental community service projects, removed 20 tons of debris from Honolulu streams, restored one mile of the most used hiking trail on Oahu; planted approximately 2,000 plants, cleaned 40 beaches, stenciled more than 2,500 storm drains with a "Dump No Waste" message, and organized more than 350 other community service projects.

The YES project is an excellent example of the partnering of extension and educational goals through the University of Hawaii's Sea Grant Program. Mr. President, I extend my warmest congratulations to our three Hawaii Environmental Heroes.●

CONGRATULATIONS TO US AIRWAYS

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate one of the many employers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania which, through innovation and dynamic business planning, has recently received prestigious recognition. The W. Frank Barton School of Business at Wichita State University and the University of Nebraska at Omaha Aviation Institute have ranked US Airways number one in their annual "Airline Quality Rating" study.

I congratulate the over 16,000 Pennsylvanians who work at US Airways on