

service. The EAS Marketing and Community Flexibility Programs would provide communities new resources and tools to implement locally developed plans to improve their air service. By providing communities the ability to design their own air service proposals, a community has the ability to develop a plan that meets its locally determined needs, improves air service choices, and gives the community a greater stake in the EAS program.

Specifically, these new EAS pilot programs include authorization for the use of smaller planes to decrease cost or increase frequency, communities to cost-share for service above base EAS subsidy level, alternative service at up to 3 EAS points if a community applies, an opt out of the EAS program with a one-time infusion of funding to assist in transition out of the program, and DOT to mandate multiple code-sharing arrangements for EAS providers.

A pilot program added at the request of Senator LOTT would allow DOT to require a cost-share for up to 10 communities within 100 miles of a hub. I have significant reservations about forcing communities to pay for a service the Federal Government promised them.

In addition, the communities that participate in EAS are small and isolated and have lower than average per capita incomes than urban or suburban communities. Cash-strapped communities will have to provide anywhere between \$50,000 and \$120,000 in local funds to continue their EAS service. I worked with Senator LOTT to make sure DOT considers a variety of relevant factors when selecting communities, to provide communities appeal rights, and to make sure they have access to all other pro-active pilot programs. I will monitor DOT's implementation of this pilot program closely.

Small and rural communities are the first to bear the brunt of bad economic times and the last to see the benefits of good times. The general economic downturn and the dire straits of the aviation industry have placed exceptional burdens on air service to our most isolated communities. The Federal Government must provide additional resources and tools for small communities to help themselves attract adequate air service. The Federal Government must make sure that our most vulnerable towns and cities are linked to the rest of the Nation. My legislation builds on existing programs and strengthens them. If these bills are enacted, our constituents will have the tools and resources necessary to attract air service, related economic development, and most importantly expand their connections to the national and global economy.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 126—COM-
MENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF
MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS
FOR WINNING THE 2002-2003 NA-
TIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC
ASSOCIATION DIVISION I NA-
TIONAL COLLEGIATE MEN'S ICE
HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Mr. DAYTON) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 126

Whereas on Saturday, April 12, 2003, the defending NCAA Division I National Collegiate Men's Ice Hockey Champions, the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers, won the National Championship for the second straight year;

Whereas the University of Minnesota defeated the University of New Hampshire in the championship game by the score of 5 to 1, having defeated the University of Michigan 3 to 2 in overtime in the semifinals;

Whereas the Golden Gophers reached the 56th Annual Frozen Four by defeating Mercyhurst College 9 to 2 and Ferris State University 7 to 4;

Whereas the University of Minnesota received an automatic bid to the 2002-2003 NCAA Division I National Collegiate Men's Ice Hockey Tournament by defeating Colorado College 4 to 2 in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association Tournament Championship;

Whereas the Golden Gophers became the first repeat NCAA National Collegiate Men's Ice Hockey Champion in 31 years;

Whereas the University of Minnesota won their fifth NCAA National Collegiate Men's Ice Hockey title;

Whereas the team displayed academic excellence by maintaining an average grade point average above the university-wide average; and

Whereas all the team's players showed dedication throughout the season toward the goal of winning the National Championship: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers for winning the 2002-2003 NCAA Division I National Collegiate Men's Ice Hockey Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the team's players, coaches, and support staff; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to the University of Minnesota for appropriate display, and to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to every coach and member of the 2002-2003 NCAA Division I National Collegiate Men's Ice Hockey Championship Team.

SENATE RESOLUTION 127—EX-
PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE
SENATE THAT THE SECRETARY
OF AGRICULTURE SHOULD RE-
DUCE THE INTEREST RATE ON
LOANS TO PROCESSORS OF
SUGAR BEETS AND SUGARCANE
BY 1 PERCENT TO A RATE
EQUAL TO THE COST OF BOR-
ROWING TO CONFORM TO THE
INTENT OF CONGRESS

Mr. COLEMAN submitted the following resolution; which was referred

to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. RES. 127

Whereas section 163 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7283) established the monthly Commodity Credit Corporation interest rate applicable to loans provided for agricultural commodities by the Corporation at 100 basis points greater than the rate determined under the applicable interest rate formula in effect on October 1, 1995;

Whereas the interest rate formula in effect on October 1, 1995, for agricultural commodity loans reflected the interest rate charged to the Commodity Credit Corporation by the Treasury for the applicable month;

Whereas the interest rate charged to the Commodity Credit Corporation by the Treasury for a month is based on the 4- to 5-week average price of 1-year constant maturity securities sold on the market by the Treasury in the previous month;

Whereas the Commodity Credit Corporation had used such cost of borrowing interest rates for all commodity loans since January 1, 1982, and this practice was understood by Congress when enacting section 163 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996;

Whereas section 1401(c)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-171) amended section 163 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to provide that raw cane sugar, refined beet sugar, and in-process sugar eligible for a loan under section 156 of that Act (7 U.S.C. 7272) shall not be considered an agricultural commodity for the purposes of section 163 of that Act;

Whereas Congress intended that loans to processors of sugar be exempted from the 100-basis point surcharge and that the loans should be subject to interest at the rate that is charged to the Commodity Credit Corporation by the Treasury for the applicable month;

Whereas, during deliberations on the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, the Congressional Budget Office estimated the cost of eliminating the interest rate surcharge on loans to processors of sugar at \$5,000,000 per year in reduced revenues and Congress enacted the amendment to section 163 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 with this understanding of its purpose and effect;

Whereas the final regulations of the Commodity Credit Corporation to implement the sugar loan program recognized that the amendment of section 163 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 by section 1401(c)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 eliminated the requirement that the Commodity Credit Corporation add 1 percentage point to the interest rate as calculated by the procedure in place prior to October 1, 1995; and

Whereas the Commodity Credit Corporation regulations require that a loan to a processor of sugar beets or sugarcane be subject to interest at rates equal to those applicable to all other agricultural commodities, including the 100-basis point surcharge, notwithstanding the clear intent of Congress in enacting section 1401(c)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Secretary of Agriculture should reduce the interest rate on loans to processors of sugar beets and sugarcane by 100 basis points to a rate equal to the cost of borrowing from the Treasury to conform to the