

**WATER LEGISLATION**

*Committee on Resources:* Subcommittee on Water and Power held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 2603, To impose limitations on the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to claim title or other rights to water absent specific direction of law or to abrogate, injure, or otherwise impair any right to the use of any quantity of water; H.R. 4580, To remove certain restrictions on the Mammoth Community Water District's ability to use certain property acquired by that District from the United States; and H.R. 4623, Eastern New Mexico Rural Water System Act of 2004. Testimony was heard from Mark Limbaugh, Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

**SAME-DAY CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE**

*Committee on Rules:* Committee granted, by voice vote, a rule waiving clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) against certain resolutions reported from the Rules Committee. The rule applies the waiver to any special rule reported on the legislative day of September 23, 2004, providing for consideration or disposition of a conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1308) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to accelerate the increase in the refundability of the child tax credit, and for other purposes.

**NATURAL GAS PRICES IMPACT**

*Committee on Small Business:* Subcommittee on Rural Enterprise, Agriculture and Technology held a hearing entitled "The Impact of High Natural Gas Prices on Small Farmers and Manufacturers." Testimony was heard from Representatives King (IA), and Peterson (PA); and public witnesses.

**HAITI TRADE PREFERENCES**

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Trade held a hearing on Trade Preferences for Haiti. Testimony was heard from Senators Dewine and Graham (FL); and public witnesses.

**CYBER ISSUES BRIEFING**

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Met in executive session to receive a briefing on Cyber Issues. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

**EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEMS**

*Select Committee on Homeland Security:* Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness and Response held a hearing entitled "Emergency Warning Systems:

Ways to Notify the Public in the New Era of Homeland Security." Testimony was heard from Reynold N. Hoover, Director, National Security Coordination, Department of Homeland Security; James Dailey, Director, Homeland Security, FCC; and public witnesses.

**Joint Meetings****HEALTH INSURANCE**

*Joint Economic Committee:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine consumer choice and addressing "adverse selection" concerns with regard to health care and health insurance, focusing on ways insurance markets might use pooling and pricing of risks to resolve coverage issues, after receiving testimony from Mark V. Pauly, University of Pennsylvania Wharton School, Philadelphia; James H. Cardon, Brigham Young University Department of Economics, Provo, Utah; Jeffrey M. Closs, BENU, Inc., San Mateo, California; and Linda J. Blumberg, Urban Institute, Washington, D.C.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2004**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

**Senate**

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, to hold hearings to examine National Labor Relations Board issues, 9:30 a.m., SD-192.

*Committee on Armed Services:* to hold hearings to examine the Global Posture Review of United States military forces stationed overseas, 2:30 p.m., SH-216.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* to hold hearings to examine the role of prescription drug monitoring programs, 2 p.m., SD-430.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters, 4 p.m., SH-219.

*Special Committee on Aging:* to meet to discuss the new Medicare-approved prescription drug cards and transitional assistance programs for seniors, 2:30 p.m., SD-628.

**House**

*Committee on Agriculture,* to consider the following measures: H. Res. 261, Expressing the support of the House of Representatives for the efforts of organizations such as Second Harvest to provide emergency food assistance to hungry people in the United States, and encouraging all Americans to provide volunteer services and other support for local antihunger advocacy efforts and hunger relief charities, including food banks, food rescue organizations, food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters; H. Res. 481, Recognizing the establishment of Hunters for the Hungry programs across the United States and the contributions of those programs to

efforts to decrease hunger and help feed those in need; H.R. 2119, To provide for the use by the State of North Carolina of Federal lands, improvements, equipment, and resource materials at the Oxford Research Station in Granville County, North Carolina; H.R. 2984, To amend the Agricultural Adjustment Act to remove the requirement that processors be members of an agency administering a marketing order applicable to pears, H.R. 3372, To designate the facility of the Agriculture Research Service of the Department of Agriculture located at State Highway 26 West in Poplarville, Mississippi, as the “Thad Cochran Southern Horticultural Laboratory;” H.R. 3514, Pennsylvania National Forest Improvement Act of 2003; S. 33, To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange all or part of certain administrative sites and other land in the Ozark-St. Francis and Ouachita National Forests and to use funds derived from the sale or exchange to acquire, construct, or improve administrative sites; H.R. 4569, To provide for the development of a national plan for the control and management of Sudden Oak Death, a tree disease caused by the fungus-like pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*; H.R. 4620, To confirm the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commodity Credit Corporation to enter into memorandums of understanding with a State regarding the collection of approved State commodity assessments on behalf of the State from the proceeds of marketing assistance loans; H.R. 4918, To provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land administered by the Department of Agriculture in the City of Bastrop, Louisiana, to the City to permit the City to establish and operate a regional emergency services training center for firefighters, police, and EMS personnel serving rural communities in northeast Louisiana, southern Arkansas, and western Mississippi; H.R. 5042, To amend the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 to ensure that the dependents of employees of the Forest Service stationed in Puerto Rico receive a high-quality elementary and secondary education; and S. 1814, To transfer federal lands between the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, 1 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

*Committee on Education and the Workforce*, Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness, hearing entitled “Current Safeguards Protecting Taxpayers Against Diploma Mills,” 11 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, to mark up H.R. 4940, Municipal Solid Waste Responsibility Act of 2004, 12 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “FDA’s Role in Protecting the Public Health: Examining FDA’s Review of Safety and Efficacy Concerns in Anti-Depressant Use by Children,” 11 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Encouraging Small Business Growth and Access to Capital,” 11 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Government Reform*, hearing entitled “Intellectual Property Piracy: Are We Doing Enough to Protect U.S. Innovation Abroad?” 11 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on International Relations*, hearing on United States Security Policy in Afghanistan on the Eve of National Elections, 1 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, to mark up the following measures: H.R. 4547, Defending America’s Most Vulnerable Safe Access to Drug Treatment and Child Protection Act of 2004; S. 1194, Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2003; and H.R. 4264, Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2004, 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Resources*, Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, oversight hearing on the Upcoming Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, September 23, Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures, hearing on Select Tax Issues, 11:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.