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CONFIRMATION OF SAMUEL BODMAN AS SECRETARY OF ENERGY

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the Senate's confirmation of Dr. Samuel Bodman as our new Secretary of Energy.

I believe Dr. Bodman will bring considerable skill to the position of Secretary of Energy. Dr. Bodman's distinguished career speaks for itself. In the private sector, he excelled as a professor at MIT, president of an investment company, and chairman and CEO of a worldwide industrial company. In these positions, he gained a great deal of knowledge in financial markets and the impact energy and technology has on those markets. He further proved his capabilities in his service as Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Deputy Secretary of the Treasury. There is no question that Dr. Bodman is qualified to assume this important position.

As a Nation, we are far too dependent on foreign sources of energy and must work to increase our energy independence. While I support domestic oil production, I also believe that we must continue to develop alternative sources of energy in the United States. In my home State, Utah State University is working with the Department of Energy to that end. I was pleased that the Department of Energy recently awarded Utah State University a grant to further the university's studies into alternative energy research and development programs. Such programs are essential to ensure we can meet our Nation's future energy needs, and I admire the university for being at the forefront on this issue.

I have a great deal of respect for Dr. Bodman, and I look forward to working with him on the compelling energy issues facing our Nation. While there will certainly be challenges to overcome as we work to shape our energy policy and increase our energy independence, I am confident that Dr. Bodman will serve admirably in the position.

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT ENHANCEMENT ACT

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I am pleased to again be an original cosponsor of Senator COLLINS' Homeland Security Grant Enhancement Act. This important legislation will coordinate and simplify the often complicated and confusing homeland security grant process. This bill will make it much easier for local first responders to get funding by reducing the many, and often redundant, grant applications steps. The amendment also gives local officials far more flexibility in spending homeland security dollars, including paying for overtime costs associ-

ated with homeland security tasks and training. Successful programs, such as FIRE Act grants, the COPS program, and the Emergency Management Performance Grant program, are protected in this legislation.

The legislation also tackles the controversial topic of how to allocate funding. I believe it has struck a fair balance by both allocating funding based on threat, as recommended by the 9/11 Commission and others, and maintaining baseline funding so that States and local officials can have a predictable stream of funding to meet the homeland security needs faced by all jurisdictions. As Senator COLLINS noted, the support this bill has gotten from Senators from both large and small States is indicative of the balanced approach taken by this legislation.

The Senate adopted this measure by voice vote in the last Congress as an amendment to the intelligence reform bill and it is my hope that the Senate will soon take up and pass this important bill. Simplifying and rationalizing the current homeland security grant system should be a top priority. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to adequately allocate resources to meet our homeland security needs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WARNER, from the Committee on Armed Services, without amendment:

S. Res. 29. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. Res. 30. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LUGAR, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. Res. 32. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Foreign Relations.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. CORZINE, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 224. A bill to extend the period for COBRA coverage for victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. INOUE, and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 225. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to undertake a program to reduce the risks from and mitigate the effects of avalanches on recreational users of public land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 226. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve immunization rates

by increasing the supply of vaccines; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 227. A bill for the relief of Ernesto Guillen; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAFO:

S. 228. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of Men's Health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 229. A bill to clear title to certain real property in New Mexico associated with the Middle Rio Grande Project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 230. A bill to improve railroad safety; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 231. A bill to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the rehabilitation of the Wallowa Lake Dam in Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SMITH:

S. 232. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation, to assist in the implementation of fish passage and screening facilities at non-Federal water projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROBERTS:

S. 233. A bill to increase the supply of quality child care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DODD:

S. 234. A bill for the relief of Majan Jean; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENSIGN (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. 235. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to sell certain parcels of Federal land in Carson City and Douglas County, Nevada; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 236. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify the treatment of payment under the medicare program for clinical laboratory tests furnished by critical access hospitals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 237. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to ensure that certain states remain eligible for Federal highway funds; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HAGEL:

S. 238. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue code of 1986 to exclude from gross income interest received on loans secured by agricultural real property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. FEINGOLD):

S. 239. A bill to reduce the costs of prescription drugs for medicare beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PRYOR, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 240. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow small business employers a credit against income tax with respect to employees who participate in the