

I want everyone within the sound of my voice to understand what an extraordinary man he is and how much good he has done. I have watched his progress from the days we spent together on the subcommittee and the committee in the House, and we talked about the environment. This Nobel Peace Prize is a reflection of the man and his accomplishments.

Is there anyone who doubts today that global warming is real? I don't think so. If they do, they are in a very distinct minority. Global warming is here and we must act. Listen to what Vice President Gore says regarding the challenge. He says we must have optimism. He said:

We sometimes emphasize the danger in a crisis without focusing on the opportunities that are there. We should feel a great sense of urgency because it is the most dangerous crisis we have ever faced, by far. But it also provides us with opportunities to do a lot of things we ought to be doing for other reasons anyway. And to solve this crisis, we can develop a shared sense of moral purpose.

Does that depict what a great man he is? Al Gore looks at this optimistically, saying these are things we should have been doing, but we are not doing it, so let's work together to fight the scourge facing our world.

On behalf of our former colleague and my friend, Vice President Al Gore, I am so pleased to support this resolution. More important than passing this resolution, which has happened, I hope all my colleagues will honor his cause and moral purpose to continue the fight to reverse the threat of global warming and leave an Earth to our children and grandchildren that is safe, clean, and livable.

HONORING NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNERS IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 350.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 350) honoring the achievements of Mario R. Capecchi, Sir Martin J. Evans, and Oliver Smithies of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 350) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 350

Whereas Mario R. Capecchi was born in Italy in 1937 and earned a PhD in biophysics from Harvard University in 1967;

Whereas Sir Martin J. Evans was born in Great Britain in 1941 and earned a PhD in anatomy and embryology from University College in London in 1969;

Whereas Oliver Smithies was born in Great Britain in 1925 and earned a PhD in biochemistry from Oxford University in 1951;

Whereas Mario Capecchi currently serves as Distinguished Professor of Human Genetics and Biology at the University of Utah School of Medicine;

Whereas Sir Martin J. Evans currently serves as the Professor of Mammalian Genetics and Director of the School of Biosciences at Cardiff University in Wales;

Whereas Oliver Smithies currently serves as an Excellence Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill;

Whereas Mario R. Capecchi, Sir Martin J. Evans, and Oliver Smithies have made a series of discoveries concerning embryonic stem cells and deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) recombination in mammals that have led to the creation of gene targeting in mice, a powerful technology that is now being used in all areas of biomedicine;

Whereas gene targeting technology has been used in experiments that have successfully isolated genes in order to determine their roles in embryonic development, adult physiology, aging, and disease;

Whereas gene targeting has produced more than 500 different mouse models of human disorders, including cardiovascular and neuron degenerative diseases, diabetes, and cancer;

Whereas, on October 8, 2007, Mario R. Capecchi, Sir Martin J. Evans, and Oliver Smithies were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their discoveries of principles for introducing specific gene modifications in mice by the use of embryonic stem cells: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors and recognizes the scientific work and achievements of Mario R. Capecchi, Sir Martin J. Evans, and Oliver Smithies; and

(2) congratulates Mario R. Capecchi, Sir Martin J. Evans, and Oliver Smithies for their receipt of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2179, S. 2180, S. 2184, S. 2185, H.R. 2102, AND H.R. 3678 EN BLOC

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand there are six bills at the desk. I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the clerk will report the bills by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2179) to authorize certain programs and activities in the Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Energy, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2180) to authorize certain programs and activities in the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, and the Department of Energy, and to amend the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2184) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently allow penalty-free withdrawals from retirement plans for individuals called to active duty for at least 179 days.

A bill (S. 2185) to permanently extend the current marginal tax rates.

A bill (H.R. 2102) to maintain the free flow of information to the public by providing

conditions for the federally compelled disclosure of information by certain persons connected with the news media.

A bill (H.R. 3678) to amend the Internet Tax Freedom Act to extend the moratorium on certain taxes relating to the Internet and to electronic commerce.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask for their second reading en bloc, but I object to my own request en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

S. 2179 AND S. 2180

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has reported over 70 individual bills and resolutions this Congress. Most of these bills are authorizations for specific projects and activities in the Department of the Interior, although we have also reported several measures involving National Forest lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, as well as a few authorizations related to the Department of Energy.

Typically these bills would be considered in the Senate under a unanimous consent procedure. Unfortunately, although all of these bills are non-controversial and all were reported unanimously by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we have been unable to get consent to pass these bills.

In an effort to facilitate passage of these bills, today I am introducing two bills which contain the individual measures reported by the committee. The first bill, the National Forests, Parks, Public Land, and Reclamation Projects Authorization Act of 2007, includes the text of 25 bills and 1 resolution which have been passed by the House of Representatives and which were reported, or their Senate companion measure was reported, without substantive amendment by the committee. If considered as individual bills, upon passage in the Senate, these bills would have been cleared for the President. Since they will now be included as part of this comprehensive bill, it will require additional action by the House of Representatives, but I am hopeful that because all of the measures included in this bill were previously approved by the other body that they will be able to approve this bill expeditiously.

The second bill, the Natural Resource Projects and Programs Authorization Act of 2007, includes the text of 44 bills which originated in the Senate, or which passed the House of Representatives and were substantively amended in committee. Like the previous bill, all of the individual bills were reported unanimously by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. While the House of Representatives has not previously acted on all of the individual components of this new bill, I believe these bills are non-controversial, and I hope that the House will be able to consider this bill in a timely manner as well.