

through the Department of Energy, to build a facility for the permanent storage of high-level nuclear waste. This act, which was amended in 1987, includes a specific timetable to identify a suitable location and to establish the waste facility. The costs for this undertaking are to be paid from a fee that is assessed on all nuclear energy produced; and

Whereas, In accordance with the federal act, customers of utilities operating nuclear plants in Michigan have contributed, directly and through accumulated interest, some \$700 million for the construction and operation of a federal waste facility; and

Whereas, There are serious concerns that the federal government is not complying with the timetables set forth in federal law. Every delay places our country at greater risk, because the large number of temporary sites at nuclear facilities across the country makes us vulnerable to potential problems. The Department of Energy, working with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, must not fail to meet its obligation as provided by law. There is too much at stake; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the United States Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to fulfill their obligation to establish a permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the United States Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

Adopted by the House of Representatives, May 5, 1999.

POM-229. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to a permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

Whereas, Over the past four decades, nuclear power has become a significant source for the nation's production of electricity, Michigan is among the majority of states that derive energy from nuclear plants; and

Whereas, Since the earliest days of nuclear power, the great dilemma associated with this technology is how to deal with the waste material that is produced. This high-level radioactive waste material demands exceptional care in all facets of its storage and disposal, including the transportation of this material; and

Whereas, In 1982, Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. This legislation requires the federal government, through the Department of Energy, to build a facility for the permanent storage of high-level nuclear waste. This act, which was amended in 1987, includes a specific timetable to identify a suitable location and to establish the waste facility. The costs for this undertaking are to be paid from a fee that is assessed on all nuclear energy produced; and

Whereas, In accordance with the federal act, customers of utilities operating nuclear plants in Michigan have contributed, directly and through accumulated interest, some \$700 million for the construction and operation of a federal waste facility; and

Whereas, There are serious concerns that the federal government is not complying with the timetables set forth in federal law.

Every delay places our country at greater risk, because the large number of temporary sites at nuclear facilities across the country makes us vulnerable to potential problems. The Department of Energy, working with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, must not fail to meet its obligation as provided by law. There is too much at stake; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That we urge the United States Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to fulfill their obligation to establish a permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the United States Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

Adopted by the House of Representatives, May 5, 1999.

Adopted by the Senate, May 20, 1999.

POM-230. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Montana relative to national forest road closure and obliteration; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

Whereas, there are 737 million acres of forested land covering approximately one-third of the United States, a nation that has created the largest legally protected wilderness system in the world, while at the same time sustaining a highly productive and efficient wood products industry; and

Whereas, the federal government owns approximately two-thirds of the land in western Montana and these lands are primarily administered by the U.S. Forest Service; and

Whereas, the management of federal lands has a direct impact on economic and recreational opportunities and the quality of life for thousands of Montana residents; and

Whereas, Congress has declared in the federal Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 that national forests are established and must be utilized for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fishery purposes; and

Whereas, the national forest road system represents a significant capital infrastructure investment and a valuable existing forest asset for forest managers and the public, providing access for a multitude of recreational opportunities, for emergency response efforts, and for resource management, protection, and improvement activities; and

Whereas, the federal government continues to close roads to public access by motorized vehicles and, in early 1998, the forest service proposed and is now planning to implement an 18-month moratorium on all new road building in roadless areas pending a review of its road management policies; and

Whereas, one stated purpose of the moratorium is to close or obliterate existing roads, thus creating additional defacto roadless areas contrary to the interests of Montana's citizens; and

Whereas, the scheduled destruction of nearly 2,000 miles of roads in the 10 national forests in Montana can have significant environmental, economic, and cultural impacts upon the fabric of many Montana communities and its citizens; and

Whereas, 650 miles of forest system roads in the Flathead National Forest alone have been scheduled for obliteration and 200 miles have already been destroyed; and

Whereas, destruction or obliteration of existing forest system roads can cause short-term and long-term increased discharges of sediment to streams, adversely affecting certain sensitive or endangered fish species and resulting in further restrictions on other multiple-use activities. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana:

(1) That the 56th Montana Legislature opposes the current administration's policy on national forest road closure and obliteration and urges the immediate suspension of road closure and obliteration activities.

(2) That existing roads are a valuable and necessary capital investment in public lands that should not be lost or destroyed.

(3) That forest plans specifying multiple-use management for timber harvest, outdoor recreation, range, watershed, and fish and wildlife values should be given priority as the appropriate and necessary management guidance to the forest service. Be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent by the Secretary of State to the Montana Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the federal Department of Interior, the Secretary of the federal Department of Agriculture, the Director of the United States Forest Service, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the President and Vice President of the United States.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 1297. A bill to make improvements in the independent counsel statute; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 1298. A bill to provide for professional liability insurance coverage for Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. ROBB, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. MACK):

S. 1299. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide corporate alternative minimum tax reform; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 1300. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to prevent the wearing away of an employee's accrued benefit under a defined plan by the adoption of a plan amendment reducing future accruals under the plan; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 1301. A bill to provide reasonable and non-discriminatory access to buildings owned or used by the Federal government for the provision of competitive telecommunications services by telecommunications carriers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRAMS (for himself, Mr. DOMENICI, and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 1302. A bill to correct the DSH Allotments for Minnesota, New Mexico, and Wyoming under the medicare program for fiscal

years 2000, 2001, and 2002; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. GORTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. GRAMS, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1303. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify certain provisions relating to the treatment of forestry activities; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 1298. A bill to provide for professional liability insurance coverage for Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES EQUITY ACT OF 1999

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Federal Employees Equity Act of 1999.

My legislation expands a provision included in the omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997 (P.L. 104-208) to allow federal agencies to contribute to the costs of professional liability insurance for their senior executives, managers and law enforcement officials. While this important benefit contained in the Omnibus Appropriation bill was indeed enacted, it has not been made available on as wide a basis to federal employees as we had hoped.

The Federal Employees Equity Act would ensure that federal agencies reimburse one-half the premiums for Professional Liability Insurance for employees covered by this bill. Federal managers, supervisors, and law enforcement officials should not have to fear the excessive costs of legal representation when unwarranted allegations are made against them for investigations of these allegations are conducted.

I was a strong supporter of the provision in 1996 because federal officials often found themselves to be the target of unfounded allegations of wrongdoing. Sometimes allegations were made by citizens, against whom federal officials were enforcing the law and by employees who had performance or conduct problems. Although many allegations have proven to be specious, these federal officials were often subject to lengthy investigations and had to pay for their own legal representation when their agencies could not provide it.

The affected federal managers, supervisors, and law enforcement officials are generally prohibited from being represented by unions. For employees who are in bargaining units represented by unions, Congress allows federal agencies to subsidize the time and expenses of union representatives when they are needed by such employees, whether or not they are dues paying members of the union.

Because these federal officials are denied union representation, they have found it necessary to purchase professional liability insurance in order to protect themselves when allegations are made against them to the inspector general of their agency, to the Office of Special Counsel, or to the EEO office. The insurance provides coverage for legal representation for the employees when they are accused, and will pay judgements against the employee up to a maximum dollar amount if the employee is found to have made a mistake while carrying out his official duties. Currently, these managers must hire their own lawyers in order to defend their reputation and careers when they are the subject of a grievance, regardless of whether the complaint has merit.

The current law has had some success and has been implemented by several federal departments including: Departments of Agriculture, Education, Interior, Labor, and such agencies as the Social Security Administration, Small Business Administration, General Services Administration, Securities and Exchange Commission, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Office of the Inspector General at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National Science Foundation, the Merit Systems Protections Board, the Office of the Inspector General at the Office of Public Health and Science, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration at Department of Health and Human Services.

Regrettably, other departments such as Treasury, Justice, Defense, Commerce, Transportation, Veterans Affairs, and agencies such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Office of Personnel Management have not seen fit to do so.

The professional associations of these officials (the Senior Executives Association, the Professional Managers Association, the FBI Agents Association, the Federal Criminal Investigators Association, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, the National Association of Assistance U.S. Attorneys, and the National Treasury Employees Union) have endorsed the concept for legislation to require federal agencies to reimburse half the cost of premiums for professional liability insurance.

The intent of this measure is simply to "level the playing field" so that supervisors and managers are treated equally by various federal agencies and have access to protections similar to those which are already provided for rank and file federal employees.

I request your support for these federal officials and for this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1298

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

SECTION 1. PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Federal Employees Equity Act of 1999".

(b) IN GENERAL.—Section 636(a) of the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 3009-363; 5 U.S.C. prec. 5941 note) is amended in the first sentence by striking "may" and inserting "shall".

(c) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—Section 636(c)(2) of the Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government Appropriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 3009-364; 5 U.S.C. prec. 5941 note) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) the term 'law enforcement officer' means an employee, the duties of whose position are primarily the investigation, apprehension, prosecution, or detention of individuals suspected or convicted of offenses against the criminal laws of the United States, including—

"(A) any law enforcement officer under section 8331(20) or 8401(17) of title 5, United States Code;

"(B) any special agent under section 206 of the Omnibus Diplomatic Security and Antiterrorism Act of 1986 (22 U.S.C. 4823);

"(C) any customs officer as defined under section 5(e)(1) of the Act of February 13, 1911 (19 U.S.C. 267);

"(D) any revenue officer or revenue agent of the Internal Revenue Service; or

"(E) any Assistant United States Attorney appointed under section 542 of title 28, United States Code."

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall take effect on the later of—

(1) October 1, 1999; or

(2) the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. ROBB, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. MACK).

S. 1299. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide corporate alternative minimum tax reform; to the Committee on Finance.

ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX REFORM ACT OF 1999

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the "Alternative Minimum Tax Reform Act of 1999" with a bipartisan group of my colleagues on the Senate Finance Committee, Senators NICKLES, ROBB, HATCH and MACK. This bill is designed to improve the way the corporate alternative minimum tax works for capital intensive and commodity based companies. It is relatively modest in scope and I hope it will be part of any discussion we have about how we might deliver appropriate tax relief. Even though this bill does not change the fundamentals of the corporate AMT, it would eliminate some of the unfairness of current law by allowing companies with long term AMT credits to recover those credits faster. I think this bill should be part of the Finance Committee's discussions about constructive ways to provide corporate tax relief.