

Force Events Fireworks, New York Harbor, Upper Bay" (Docket 01-98-111) received on February 5, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1685. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Beverly Lobster Boat Race, Beverly harbor, Beverly, MA" (Docket 01-98-118) received on February 5, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1686. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: New York Yacht Club Fireworks, Bar Harbor, ME" (Docket 01-98-120) received on February 5, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1687. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Fort Knox Power Boat Races, Bucksport, ME" (Docket 01-98-119) received on February 5, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1688. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Zenith Photo Shoot Fireworks, Hudson River, Manhattan, New York" (Docket 01-98-121) received on February 5, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1689. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Opsail Maine Fireworks, Portland, ME" (Docket 01-98-126) received on February 5, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1690. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Emergency Dive Operations, Rockport, ME" (Docket 01-98-132) received on February 5, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1691. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Staten Island Fireworks, New York Harbor, Lower Bay" (Docket 01-98-099) received on February 5, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1692. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: William Morris Agency Fireworks, New York Harbor, Upper Bay" (Docket 01-98-136) received on February 5, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1693. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Fireworks, Falmouth, MA" (Docket 01-98-137) received on February 5, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1694. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Tow of the Decommissioned Aircraft Carrier, Forrestal (CV-59), Newport, RI" (Docket 01-98-142) received on February 5, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1695. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: HM Endeavour Arrival/Departure, Piscataqua River, Portsmouth, NH" (Docket 01-98-143) received on February 5, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1696. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Princess Cruise Lines Fireworks, New York Harbor, Upper Bay" (Docket 01-98-145) received on February 5, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1697. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: Tow of the Decommissioned Battleship Iowa, (BB-61), Newport, RI" (Docket 01-98-149) received on February 5, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1698. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: SARCADIA 98 Exercise, Bar Harbor, ME" (Docket 01-98-150) received on February 5, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1699. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone: Presidential Visit and United Nations General Assembly, East River, New York" (Docket 01-98-153) received on February 5, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1700. A communication from the General Counsel of the Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone: convergence of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and Cape Fear River Near Southport, North Carolina" (Docket 05-98-052) received on February 5, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LOTT, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ROBB, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 393. A bill to provide Internet access to certain Congressional documents, including certain Congressional Research Service publications, Senate lobbying and gift report filings, and Senate and Joint Committee documents; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 394. A bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to permit a State to register a Canadian pesticide for distribution and use within that State; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. BYRD, and Mr. HOLLINGS):

S. 395. A bill to ensure that the volume of steel imports does not exceed the average monthly volume of such imports during the

36-month period preceding July 1997; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. HELMS, and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. 396. A bill to provide dollars to the classroom; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CLELAND, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. ALLARD):

S. Res. 33. A resolution designating May 1999 as "National Military Appreciation Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LOTT, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ROBB, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 393. A bill to provide Internet access to certain Congressional documents, including certain Congressional Research Service publications, Senate lobbying and gift report filings, and Senate and Joint Committee documents; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

CONGRESSIONAL OPENESS ACT

• Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I would like to introduce the Congressional Openess Act, a bill to make selected Congressional Research Service products, lobbyist disclosure reports and Senate gift disclosure forms available over the Internet for the American people. This bipartisan legislation is sponsored by Senators LEAHY, LOTT, ABRAHAM, ROBB, and ENZI.

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) has a well-known reputation for producing high-quality reports and issue briefs that are concise, factual, and unbiased—a rarity for Washington. Many of us have used these CRS products to make decisions on a wide variety of legislative proposals and issues, including Amtrak reform, the Endangered Species Act, the Line-Item veto, and U.S. policy in Zambia. Also, we routinely send these products to our constituents in order to help them understand the important issues of our time.

My colleagues and I believe that it is important that the public be able to use this CRS information. The American public will pay \$67.1 million to fund CRS' operations for fiscal year 1999. They should be allowed to see that their money is being well-spent on material that is neither confidential nor classified.

Congress can also serve two important functions by allowing public access to this information. When we give the public access to these CRS products, it will mark an important milestone in opening up the federal government. Our constituents will be able to see the research documents which influence our decisions and understand the factors that we consider before a vote. This will give the public a more accurate view of the Congressional decision-making process to counter the current prevailing cynical view.

Also, CRS reports will serve an important role in informing the public. Members of the public will be able to read these CRS products and receive a concise, accurate summary of the issues that concern them. As elected representatives, we should do what we can to promote an informed, educated public. The educated voter is best able to make decisions and petition us to do the right things here.

It is important to realize that these products are already out on the Internet. "Black market" private vendors can charge \$49 for a single report. Other web sites have outdated CRS products on them. It is not fair for the American people to have to pay a third party for out-of-date products for which they have already footed the bill.

Last year my colleagues on the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration proposed that Senators and Committee chairmen be allowed to post CRS products as they see fit on the Internet. I appreciate this gesture, and believe that it was a first step. Today we are proposing the common-sense next step—a centralized web site.

A centralized web site will make it much easier for the public to find CRS information. The public can just go to a web site and look up those products that interest them. That would be much easier than having them go through all of our web sites to find CRS reports.

One concern about the legislation we introduced last year was that it would not protect CRS from more public scrutiny. We would like to ensure you that we do not want to put CRS in a position that would in any way alter its current mission or open it up to liability suits.

Therefore, the bill provides that this centralized web site will be accessible only through Members' and Committees' web sites. This process will preserve CRS' mission by reducing its public visibility. More importantly, it will continue to allow us to inform our constituents about how we are helping them here in Washington.

This bill also includes other safeguards to ensure that CRS will remain protected from public interference. The Director of CRS is empowered to remove any information from these reports that he believes is confidential.

He also can remove the names and phone numbers of CRS employees from these products to keep the public from distracting them from doing their jobs. We have also been informed that CRS may not have permission to release copyrighted information over the Internet. While we hope that this situation can be quickly resolved, we have included a provision in this bill to allow the Director to remove unprotected copyrighted information from these reports before they are posted. Finally, we have allowed a 30-day delay between the release of these CRS products to Members of Congress and the public. This delay allows CRS to review their products, consult with us, and revise their products to ensure that only accurate, up-to-date information is available to the public.

It should be pointed out that CRS has been granted none of these protections as part of the current decentralized approach.

This bill also requires the Senate Office of Public Records to place lobbyist disclosure forms and Senate gift disclosure forms on the Internet. We have already voted to make this information available to the public. Unfortunately, the public can only get access to this information through an office in the Hart building. These provisions will give our constituents throughout the country timely access to this information.

This legislation has been endorsed by many groups including the American Association of Engineering Societies, the Congressional Accountability Project, the League of Women Voters of the U.S., and the National Association of Manufacturers.

In conclusion, we would like to urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this legislation. The Internet offers us a unique opportunity to allow the American people to have everyday access to important information about their government. We are sure you agree that a well-informed electorate can best govern our great country.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that these letters of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the materials were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
ENGINEERING SOCIETIES,
Washington, DC, February 4, 1999.

Hon. JOHN MCCAIN,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCAIN: On behalf of the Engineers Public Policy Council (EPPC) of the American Association of Engineering Societies, I want to thank you for your leadership on providing public access to Congressional Research Service (CRS) materials. EPPC believes that all citizens of the United States will benefit from being able read these materials and will enable them to better engage in the policy debates of our times.

The EPPC has had the opportunity to review a number of CRS reports that were provided via our member's congressional offices.

We believe that they are of the highest quality and deserve to be made widely available.

The members of EPPC and AAES will continue to advocate that their own Senators and Representatives support this important legislation.

Again, thank you for your leadership. If we can ever be of assistance please feel free to contact me or Pete Leon, Director of Public Policy, at (202) 296-2237 x 214.

Sincerely,

DR. THEODORE T. SAITO,
1999 EPPC Chair.

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
PROJECT,
Washington, DC, February 9, 1999.

Hon. JOHN MCCAIN,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
*U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATORS MCCAIN AND LEAHY: We strongly endorse the Congressional Openness Act to place important congressional documents on the Internet, including Congressional Research Service (CRS) Reports and Issue Briefs, CRS Authorization and Appropriations products, lobbyist disclosure reports, and Senate gift disclosure reports.

The Congressional Openness Act recognizes that "it is so often burdensome, difficult and time-consuming for citizens to obtain timely access to public records of the United States Congress," and would help provide taxpayers with easy access to the congressional research and documents that we pay for.

CRS products are some of the finest research prepared by the federal government, on a vast range of topics. But citizens cannot obtain most CRS products directly. At present, many CRS products are available on an internal congressional intranet only for use by Members of Congress and their staffs—not the public. Barriers to obtaining CRS products serve no useful purpose, and damage citizens' ability to participate in the congressional legislative process. Citizens, scholars, journalists, librarians, businesses, and many others have long wanted access to CRS reports via the Internet.

In 1995, Congress passed the Lobbying Disclosure Act to require Washington lobbyists to disclose key information about their activities. Placing lobbyist disclosure reports on the Internet would help citizens to track patterns of influence in Congress, and to discover who is paying whom how much to lobby on what issues.

The Congressional Openness Act contains a sense of the Senate resolution that Senate and Joint Committees "should provide access via the Internet to publicly-available committee information, documents, and proceedings, including bills, reports, and transcripts of committee meetings that are open to the public." Congress owes this to the American people.

In 1822, James Madison aptly described why the public must have reliable information about Congress: "A popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or, perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance: And a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

Your bill falls squarely within the spirit of Madison's honorable words. Thank you for

your efforts in making congressional documents available on the Internet.

Sincerely,

American Association of Law Libraries, American Conservative Union, American Society of Newspaper Editors, Common Cause, Computer & Communications Industry Association, Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, Consumer Project on Technology, Congressional Accountability Project, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, League of Women Voters of the U.S., National Association of Manufacturers, National Citizens Communications Lobby, National Newspaper Association, National Taxpayers Union, NetAction, OMB Watch, Project on Government Oversight, Public Citizen, Radio-Television News Directors Association, Reform Party of the United States, Taxpayers for Common Sense, U.S. Public Interest Research Group (USPIRG).•

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join today with Senator MCCAIN to introduce the Congressional Openness Act of 1999. I want to thank Senators ABRAHAM, ENZI, LOTT and ROBB for joining us as original cosponsors.

Our bipartisan legislation makes certain Congressional Research Service products, lobbyist disclosure reports and Senate gift disclosure forms available over the Internet to the American people.

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) has a well-known reputation for producing high-quality reports and information briefs that are unbiased, concise, and accurate. The taxpayers of this country, who pay \$65 million a year to fund the CRS, deserve speedy access to these public resources and have a right to see that their money is being spent well.

The goal of our legislation to allow every citizen the same access to the wealth of information at the Congressional Research Service (CRS) as a Member of Congress enjoys today. CRS performs invaluable research and produces first-rate reports on hundreds of topics. American taxpayers have every right to direct access to these wonderful resources.

Online CRS reports will serve an important role in informing the public. Members of the public will be able to read these CRS products and receive a concise, accurate summary of the issues before the Congress. As elected representatives, we should do what we can to promote an informed, educated public. The educated voter is best able to make decisions and petition us to do the right things here in Congress.

Our legislation also ensures that private CRS products will remain protected by giving the CRS Director the authority to hold back any products that are deemed confidential. Moreover, the Director may protect the identity of CRS researchers and any copyrighted material. We can do both—

protect confidential material and empower our citizens through electronic access to invaluable CRS products.

In addition, the Congressional Openness Act would provide public online access to lobbyist reports and gift disclosure forms. At present, these public records are available in the Senate Office of Public Records in Room 232 of the Hart Building. As a practical matter, these public records are accessible only to those inside the Beltway.

The Internet offers us a unique opportunity to allow the American people to have everyday access to this public information. Our bipartisan legislation would harness the power of the Information Age to allow average citizens to see these public records of the Senate in their official form, in context and without editorial comment. All Americans would have timely access to the information that we already have voted to give them.

And all of these reports are indeed “public” for those who can afford to hire a lawyer or lobbyist or who can afford to travel to Washington to come to the Office of Public Records in the Hart Building and read them. That is not very public. That does not do very much for the average voter in Vermont or the rest of this country outside of easy reach of Washington. That does not meet the spirit in which we voted to make these materials public, when we voted “disclosure” laws.

We can do better, and this bill does better. Any citizen in any corner of this country with access to a computer at home or the office or at the public library will be able to get on the Internet and for the first time read these public documents and learn the information which we have said must be disclosed.

It also is important that citizens will be able to get the information in its original, official form. At present, the information may be selected by an interested party who can afford to send a lawyer or lobbyist to the Hart Building to cull through the information. Selected information then may—or may not—be given to the press and public with commentary. Our bipartisan legislation allows citizens to get accurate information themselves, the full information in context and without editorial comment. It allows individual citizens to check the facts, to make comparisons, and to make up their own minds.

I want to commend the Senior Senator from Arizona for his leadership on opening public access to Congressional documents. I share his desire for the American people to have electronic access to many more Congressional resources. I look forward to working with him in the days to come on harnessing the power of the information age to open up the halls of Congress to all our citizens.

This is not a partisan issue; it is a good government issue. That is why

the Congressional Openness Act is endorsed by such a diverse group of organizations as the Congressional Accountability Project, American Association of Law Libraries, American Conservation Union, American Society of Newspaper Editors, Common Cause, Computer & Communications Industry Association, Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, Consumer Project on Technology, Electronic Frontier Foundation, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics, League of Women Voters of the U.S., National Association of Manufacturers, National Citizens Communications Lobby, National Newspaper Association, National Taxpayers Union, NetAction, OMB Watch, Project of Government Oversight, Public Citizen, Radio-Television News Directors Association, Reform Party of the United States, Taxpayers for Common Sense and U.S. Public Interest Research Group. I want to thank each of these organizations for their support.

As Thomas Jefferson wrote, “Information is the currency of democracy.” Our democracy is stronger if all citizens have equal access to at least that type of currency, and that is something which Members on both sides of the aisle can celebrate and join in.

The Congressional Openness Act is an important step in informing and empowering American citizens. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this legislation to make available useful Congressional information to the American people. •

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 394. A bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to permit a State to register a Canadian pesticide for distribution and use within that State; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

PESTICIDE HARMONIZATION WITH CANADA

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, when the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement came into effect ten years ago, part of the understanding on agriculture was that our two nations were going to move rapidly toward the harmonization of pesticide regulations. It is now a decade later and relatively little actual progress has been in harmonization that is meaningful to our agricultural producers.

Since this trade agreement took effect, the pace of Canadian spring and durum wheat, and barley exports to the United States have grown from a barely noticeable trickle into annual floods of imported grain into our markets. Over the years, I have described many factors that have produced this unfair trade relationship and unlevel playing