BINGAMAN AMENDMENT NO. 2805

Mr. DASCHLE (for Mr. BINGAMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 1753) to promote the research, identification, assessment, exploration, and development of methane hydrate resources, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of the bill add the following:

"SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. (b) the date on which the full payment is made under paragraph (1); and

"METHANE HYDRATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999"

AKAKA AMENDMENT NO. 2806

Mr. DASCHLE (for Mr. AKAKA) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 1753) to promote the research, identification, assessment, exploration, and development of methane hydrate resources, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONTRACT.—The term "contract" means a procurement contract within the meaning of section 6303 of title 31, United States Code.

(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The term "cooperative agreement" means a cooperative agreement within the meaning of section 6305 of title 31, United States Code.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

(4) GRANT.—The term "grant" means a grant awarded under a grant agreement, within the meaning of section 6304 of title 31, United States Code.

(5) INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE.—The term "industrial enterprise" means a private, non-governmental enterprise incorporated under Federal or State law that has an expertise or capability that relates to methane hydrate research and development.

(6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education, within the meaning of section 102(a)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)(1)).

(7) METHANE HYDRATE.—The term "methane hydrate" means:

(A) a methane clathrate that is in the form of a methane-water ice-like crystalline material and is stable and occurs naturally in deep-ocean and permafrost areas, and

(B) other methane hydrate found in association with deep-ocean and permafrost deposits of methane hydrate.

(8) SECRETARY OF ENERGY.—The term "Secretary of Energy" means the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy.

(9) SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.—The term "Secretary of Commerce" means the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Director of the Mines Management Service.

(10) SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—The term "Secretary of the Interior" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

(11) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—The term "Secretary of Defense" means the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Secretary of the Navy.

(12) SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.—The term "Secretary of the Navy" means the Secretary of the Navy.

(13) SEC. 3. METHANE HYDRATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) COMMENCEMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, in collaboration with the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director, shall commence a program of methane hydrate research and development in accordance with subsection (b).

(2) DESIGNATIONS.—The Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director shall designate individuals to carry out this section.

(3) COORDINATION.—The individual designated by the Secretary of Energy shall coordinate all activities within the Department of Energy relating to methane hydrate research and development.

(4) MEETINGS.—The individuals designated under paragraph (2) shall meet not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than every 120 days thereafter to—

(A) review the progress of the program under paragraph (1); and

(B) make recommendations on future activities to occur subsequent to the meeting.

(b) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.

(1) ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program of methane hydrate research and development authorized by this subsection, the Secretary of Energy may award grants or contracts to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, institutions of higher education and industrial enterprises.

(2) COMMUNITY FOREST RESTORATION ACT

OMNIBUS PARKS TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 1999

MURKOWSKI AMENDMENT NO. 2804

Mr. LOTT (for Mr. MURKOWSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 1753) to make technical corrections to the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996; as follows:

To the bill as reported:

On page 5, lines 1 through 7, insert the following:

"COMMUNITY FOREST RESTORATION ACT"

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“(2) COMPETITIVE MERIT-BASED REVIEW.—Funds made available under paragraph (1) shall be made available based on a competitive merit-based process.

(3) CONSULTATION.—(A) The Secretary of Energy shall establish an advisory panel consisting of experts from industry, institutions of higher education, and Federal agencies to—

(i) advise the Secretary of Energy on potential applications of methane hydrate; and

(ii) assist in developing recommendations and priorities for them as methane hydrate research and development carried out under subsection (a)(1); and

(iii) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and at such later dates as the panel considers advisable, submit to Congress a report on the anticipated impact on global climate change from—

(I) methane hydrate formation;

(II) methane hydrate degassing (including natural degassing and degassing associated with commercial development); and

(III) the potential applications of methane hydrate resources.

(B) MEMBERSHIP.—Not more than twenty-five percent of the individuals serving on the advisory panel shall be Federal employees.

(c) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 5 percent of the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year may be used by the Secretary of Energy for expenses associated with the administration of the program.

(2) CONSTRUCTION COSTS.—None of the funds made available to carry out this section may be used for the construction of a new building or the expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building.

(3) DATA AND INFORMATION.—

(A) not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and at such later dates as the Secretary of Energy may determine, submit to Congress a report on the anticipated impact on global climate change from—

(I) methane hydrate formation;

(II) methane hydrate degassing (including natural degassing and degassing associated with commercial development); and

(III) the potential applications of methane hydrate resources.

(B) MEMBERSHIP.—Not more than twenty-five percent of the individuals serving on the advisory panel shall be Federal employees.

(4) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 5 percent of the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year may be used by the Secretary of Energy for expenses associated with the administration of the program.

(f) REPORTS AND STUDIES.—

The Secretary of Energy shall—

(1) facilitate and develop partnerships among government, industry, and institutions of higher education to research, identify, assess, and explore methane hydrate resources as an energy source;

(2) undertake programs to develop basic information necessary for promoting long-term interest in methane hydrate resources as an energy source;

(3) ensure that the data and information developed through the program are accessible and widely disseminated as needed and appropriate;

(4) promote cooperation among agencies that are developing technologies that may hold promise for methane hydrate resource development; and

(5) report annually to Congress on accomplishments under this section.

SEC. 5. REPORTS AND STUDIES.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out this Act—

(1) $5,000,000 for fiscal year 2000;

(2) $7,500,000 for fiscal year 2001;

(3) $11,000,000 for fiscal year 2002;

(4) $12,000,000 for fiscal year 2003;

(5) $12,000,000 for fiscal year 2004; and

(6) thereafter such sums as are necessary.

Amounts authorized under this section shall remain available until expended.

Amend the title to read as follows: “An act to promote the research, identification, assessment, exploration, and development of methane hydrate resources, and for other purposes.”

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THREE NEW YORKERS RETIRING FROM THE NORTHEAST-MIDWEST INSTITUTE’S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, for the past twelve and one-half years, I have served as the Democratic co-chairman of the Northeast-Midwest Senate Coalition. John Heinz was the Republican co-chairman until tragic death in 1991; since then, I have been pleased to work with the junior Senator from Vermont, Jim Jeffords. We and other Coalition Members have worked closely with the Northeast-Midwest Institute, the premier non-partisan, not-for-profit regional policy research center. A superb board of directors guides the Institute. I rise this afternoon to commend three New Yorkers who are ending their terms on the Northeast-Midwest Institute’s Board of Directors. They have provided distinguished service and have helped to advance the region’s economic vitality and environmental quality.

Former Representative Frank Horton has been involved with the Northeast-Midwest organizations for almost 25 years. Indeed, he was one of the founders of the Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition, our House counterpart, and served as its Republican co-chairman until he retired from the House in 1992. Frank had a distinguished career spanning 30 years, representing Rochester and serving for many years as ranking member on the Government Operations Committee.

We—I speak now on behalf of the New York Congressional delegation—revered Frank and were grateful for his counsel. He was a man who recently has been with the DC-based law firm of Venable, Baetjer, Howard & Civiletti.

Gerald Benjamin, another Northeast-Midwest Institute Board Member whose six-year term is ending, is dean of Liberal Arts & Sciences at the State University of New York at New Paltz. Jerry is a respected scholar, who has focused on Federalism—a subject near and dear to my heart—and public policy development. He has been active in New York politics, having served as county legislator and chairman in Ulster County. Jerry also was appointed as a member of the New York State Equalization and Assessment Panel and entrepreneur. He served on the Greater Rochester Metro Chamber of Commerce. Tom has pulled together the business community and expanded that organization substantially. He has been a leader in numerous civic affairs, helping to coordinate public-private partnerships that have enhanced Rochester’s industrial infrastructure. Tom also served as city manager of Rochester and deputy county manager of the County of Monroe. He also serves on the Genesee Hospital Board of Trustees and the Rochester Philharmonic Board of Overseers.

Mr. President, these gentlemen have served on the Institute’s Board of Directors six years or more without fanfare or remuneration. They are busy men, with plenty of other responsibilities. But they have served, and served with distinction. House and Senate Coalition Members and people from across the Northeast-Midwest region owe them a debt of gratitude for a job well done. I wish them well in their new endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO LISA LINDAHL

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Vermonter, Lisa Lindahl. Ms. Lindahl is known to many as an artist, inventor and dear to my heart—and public pol-

icy development. He has been active in New York politics, having served as county legislator and chairman in Ulster County. Jerry also was appointed as a member of the New York State Equalization and Assessment Panel and entrepreneur. She made her mark in the business world by designing the first sports bra and becoming the CEO of the company that successfully marketed the “Jogbra” until its sale in 1990 to a major corporation.

Ms. Lindahl is also known as a long-time advocate of people with epilepsy. Lisa is deeply committed to bringing to the forefront medical issues which are unique to women living with ep- len Hartford. His dedication to the health status of such individuals serves as a testament to us all. She is a stunning example of how one person can positively affect so many.