

United States is at least as likely to be imperiled in the first half of the next century by the consequences of inadequacies in the energy options available to the world as by inadequacies in the capabilities of U.S. weapons systems." The report succinctly concludes, "It is striking that the Federal government spends about twenty times more R&D money on the latter problem than on the former."

Before we are able to reap the significant benefits offered by biobased industrial products, the cost of the new conversion technology must be significantly reduced. Research and development is the only systematic means for creating the innovations and technical improvements that will lower the costs of biomass processing. Given the relatively short-term horizon characteristic of private sector investments, and because many benefits of biomass processing are in the public interest, industry is ill-equipped to fund the necessary fundamental research that will result in cost effective technologies for biomass conversion.

Research activities carried out by the Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy and other Federal agencies are a principal reason for much of the progress witnessed in biomass processing and underscore the future promise if new technology is developed. Nonetheless, coordination among the Federal agencies is disjointed and the research tends to be driven by institutional missions rather than by an overarching strategy to develop cost-effective technologies for biomass conversion. The National Sustainable Fuels and Chemicals Act is designed to overcome these shortcomings and raise the level of the Federal commitment to biotechnologies that are already demonstrating potential as powerful new alternatives to the traditional practices of the past.

In this effort, I am asking for the support of President Clinton and Vice President GORE who have indicated their commitment to the development of sustainable resources. On this issue we can develop a consensus for undertaking research that will improve our national security and balance of payments, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen rural economies in America and around the world. Working together we can promote the type of innovation-focused research essential for improvements in the utilization of America's biomass resource. It is my firm belief that future Americans will enjoy a rich return on our investment in the promise of a green revolution.●

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 98

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 98, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Surface Transportation Board for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 348

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. BUNNING] and the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] were added as cosponsors of S. 348, a bill to authorize and facilitate a program to enhance training, research and development, energy conservation and efficiency, and consumer education in the oilheat industry for the benefit of oilheat consumers and the public, and for other purposes.

S. 414

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. THURMOND] and the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER] were added as cosponsors of S. 414, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a 5-year extension of the credit for producing electricity from wind, and for other purposes.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. KERREY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to improve the National Writing Project.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. BROWNBAC, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 579, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to target assistance to support the economic and political independence of the countries of the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

S. 662

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the names of the Senator from Missouri [Mr. BOND] and the Senator from Florida [Mr. GRAHAM] were added as cosponsors of S. 662, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide medical assistance for certain women screened and found to have breast or cervical cancer under a federally funded screening program.

S. 783

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] was added as a cosponsor of S. 783, a bill to limit access to body armor by violent felons and to facilitate the donation of Federal surplus body armor to State and local law enforcement agencies.

S. 880

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] and the Senator from Virginia [Mr. WARNER] were added as cosponsors of S. 880, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to remove flammable fuels from the list of substances with respect to which reporting and other activities are required under the risk management plan program

S. 918

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 918, a bill to authorize the Small Business Administration to provide financial and business development assistance to military reservists' small business, and for other purposes.

S. 926

At the request of Mr. WARNER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 926, a bill to provide the people of Cuba with access to food and medicines from the United States, and for other purposes.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 29

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. GREGG] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 29, a resolution to designate the week of May 2, 1999, as "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week".

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 33

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 33, a resolution designating May 1999 as "National Military Appreciation Month".

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, her name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 33, supra.

At the request of Mr. BRYAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 33, supra.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 84

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. BYRD] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 84, a resolution to designate the month of May, 1999, as "National Alpha 1 Awareness Month".

#### NOTICE OF HEARING

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce that on Wednesday, May 5, 1999, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources will hold an oversight hearing on Damage to the National Security from Chinese Espionage at DOE Nuclear Weapons Laboratories. The hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m., in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, DC. A portion of the hearing may be closed for national security reasons.

Those who wish further information may write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate