

S. 2487: A bill to authorize appropriations for Fiscal year 2001 for certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation (Rept. No. 106-345).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. L. CHAFEE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. REID, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2878: A bill to commemorate the centennial of the establishment of the first national wildlife refuge in the United States on March 14, 1903, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. BUNNING, and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 2879: A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish programs and activities to address diabetes in children and youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 2880: A bill to provide construction assistance for a project for a water transmission line from the Missouri River to the city of Williston, North Dakota; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SMITH of Oregon:

S. 2881: A bill to update an existing Bureau of Reclamation program by amending the Small Reclamation Projects Act of 1956, to establish a partnership program in the Bureau of Reclamation for small reclamation projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SMITH of Oregon (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2882: A bill to authorize Bureau of Reclamation to conduct certain feasibility studies to augment water supplies for the Klamath Project, Oregon and California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. ENZI, Mr. GRAMM, and Mr. INHOFE):

S.J. Res. 50: A joint resolution to disapprove a final rule promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency concerning water pollution; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 337: A resolution relative to the death of the Honorable John O. Pastore, formerly a Senator from the State of Rhode Island; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. L. CHAFEE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. REID, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 2878: A bill to commemorate the centennial of the establishment of the first national wildlife refuge in the United States on March 14, 1903, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I am proud to come before the Senate today to introduce the "National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Commemoration Act of 2000". This landmark bill commemorates the centennial of the first national wildlife refuge in the United States, established on March 14, 1903, by a great man and conservationist, President Theodore Roosevelt. By setting aside land at Indian River Lagoon on Pelican Island, Florida as a haven for birds, President Roosevelt began a conservation legacy known as the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Today, the National Wildlife Refuge System has evolved into the most comprehensive system of lands devoted to wildlife protection and management in the world—spanning nearly 93 million acres across the United States and its territories. By placing special emphasis on conservation, our nation's network of refuges ensures the continued protection of our wildlife resources, including threatened and endangered species, and land areas with significant wildlife-oriented recreational, historical and cultural value.

Currently, there are more than 500 refuges in the United States and its territories, providing important habitat for 700 bird species, 220 mammal species, 250 species of amphibians and reptiles, and over 200 fish species. The Refuge System also hosts some of our country's premiere fisheries, and serves a vital role in the protection of threatened and endangered species by preserving their critical habitats.

Approximately 98 percent of the Refuge System land is open to the public. Each year, the System attracts more than 34 million visitors to participate in a variety of recreational activities that include observing and photographing wildlife, fishing, hunting and taking part in system-sponsored educational programs. By providing the public with an opportunity to participate in these activities, refuges promote a sense of appreciation for the natural wonders of this nation and emphasize our important role as stewards of these lands.

The bill that I introduce today marks a milestone in the history of conservation and celebrates 100-years of the Na-

tional Wildlife Refuge System on March 14, 2003. The bill commemorates the Refuge System by creating a Commission that will oversee the Centennial anniversary and promote public awareness and understanding of the importance of refuges to our nation. Additionally, the bill directs the Fish and Wildlife Service to prepare a long-term plan for the Refuge System that will enable the Service to look ahead and determine the future needs and priorities of the system network.

This bill celebrates the legacy of our national refuge lands, and recognizes the tireless efforts of numerous dedicated individuals from both the private and public sectors who have worked to preserve this invaluable national heritage. I encourage my colleagues to show your support for the National Wildlife Refuge System by co-sponsoring this legislation. I ask unanimous consent to print the text of the bill in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

S. 2878

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Commemoration Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) President Theodore Roosevelt began an American wildlife conservation legacy by establishing the first national wildlife refuge at Indian River Lagoon on Pelican Island, Florida, on March 14, 1903;

(2) the National Wildlife Refuge System is comprised of more than 93,000,000 acres of Federal land managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in more than 520 individual refuges and thousands of Waterfowl Production Areas located in all 50 States and the territories of the United States;

(3) the System is the only network of Federal land that—

(A) is dedicated singularly to wildlife conservation; and

(B) has wildlife-dependent recreation and environmental education as priority public uses;

(4) the System serves a vital role in the conservation of millions of migratory birds, hundreds of endangered and threatened species, some of the premier fisheries of the United States, marine mammals, and the habitats on which those species depend;

(5)(A) each year the System provides millions of Americans with opportunities to participate in wildlife-dependent recreation, including hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation; and

(B) through those activities, Americans develop an appreciation for the natural wonders and wildlife heritage of the United States;

(6) the occasion of the centennial of the beginning of the System, in 2003, presents a historic opportunity to enhance natural resource stewardship and expand compatible public enjoyment of the national wildlife refuges of the United States; and

(7) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service—