

H.R. 999: A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to improve the quality of coastal recreation waters, and for other purposes.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES RECEIVED DURING RECESS

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 6, 1999, the following reports of committees were submitted on August 30, 2000:

By Mr. DOMENICI, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Report to accompany H.R. 4733, a bill making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-395).

#### 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, on August 25, 2000.

By Mr. LUGAR:

S. 3001. A bill to amend the United States Grain Standards Act to extend the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture to collect fees, extend the authorization of appropriations, and improve the administration of that Act, to amend the United States Warehouse Act to authorize the issuance of electronic warehouse receipts, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, placed on the calendar.

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

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. ROBB, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mr. GORTON):

S. 3002. A bill to authorize a coordinated research program to ensure the integrity, safety and reliability of natural gas and hazardous liquids pipelines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ASHCROFT (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. ABRAHAM):

S. 3003. A bill to preserve access to outpatient cancer therapy services under the medicare program by requiring the Health Care Financing Administration to follow appropriate procedures and utilize a formal nationwide analysis by the Comptroller General of the United States in making any changes to the rates of reimbursement for such services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INOUE:

S. 3004. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for the conversion of cooperative housing corporations into condominiums; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Ms. SNOWE):

S. Res. 347. A resolution designating the week of September 17, 2000, through September 23, 2000, as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Week; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. ROBB, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mr. GORTON):

S. 3002. A bill to authorize a coordinated research program to ensure the integrity, safety and reliability of natural gas and hazardous liquids pipelines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

THE PIPELINE INTEGRITY, SAFETY AND RELIABILITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to address a serious issue currently pending in the Senate—pipeline safety. On August 19, there was a tragic pipeline accident in my state of New Mexico. A natural gas transmission line ruptured at 5:30 a.m. that Saturday morning in a rural area south of Carlsbad, NM. Unfortunately, the rupture occurred near a popular fishing spot along the Pecos river. Two families were camped below the bridge traversed by the pipeline. Eleven people, including five small children, died when their favorite camping spot was overcome by heat and flames. I have just learned that the one survivor, Amanda Smith, died earlier today. I would like to include a couple of articles about the victims to be printed in the RECORD after my statement. They should be remembered as individuals, not mere statistics.

This was a human tragedy I can barely describe. I spoke briefly with Martha Chapman, mother of two of the victims, and grandmother of two of the children. She had just returned to Carlsbad for the funeral from Lubbock where she had been keeping vigil at the bedside of her daughter-in-law. She was devastated. She said her whole life was gone. She begged me to do what I could to make sure something like this would never happen to another family. I had no words that could ease her grief, but I promised to do what I could when I returned to Washington. That afternoon I went out to the site to see firsthand the damage and what was being done to determine the cause of the rupture.

I spent several hours with Kelley Coyner, the chief pipeline safety official at the Department of Transportation, and some of her engineers and

inspectors. What became abundantly clear to me is that the Office of Pipeline Safety does not have adequate resources to carry out its mandate. There are only 55 inspectors for the entire interstate pipeline system. Secondly, the agency needs the additional authority it has requested in the current reauthorization bill to address the different circumstances on individual pipelines.

The first thing we need to do is to ensure the Office of Pipeline Safety has the necessary resources to protect the public safety and the environment. The budget of the Office of Pipeline Safety is fully reimbursed by user fees charged to the pipeline operators, yet for the last five years the Congress has underfunded the agency's budget request. For FY 2001 the request was \$47 million. The Senate has appropriated \$43 million, the House only \$40 million. I urge the conferees to increase the appropriation for FY 2001 to at least the requested level.

Second, we need to pass the Pipeline Safety Reauthorization bill. The bill reported by the Commerce Committee requires each and every interstate natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline to develop and implement an integrity management plan. This approach will give the Office of Pipeline Safety the authority to impose more rigorous requirements, as necessary, to address areas with the greatest likelihood of failures and on aging pipelines and those in populated or environmentally sensitive areas. This bill is a major step toward ensuring the safety of our pipeline infrastructure. I am concerned, though, that the authorization levels included in the bill as filed may not be adequate for the task of a very individualized approach that will require a significant increase in staffing to address regional differences and community-specific needs.

I would like to commend the efforts of Senator MCCAIN, chairman of the Commerce Committee, and Senators MURRAY and GORTON and their staff, who have all worked hard to move the reauthorization forward. I also want to acknowledge Senators BREAUX and BROWNBACK for their efforts to include a workable set of requirements that can be fully implemented and enforced.

Although the National Transportation Safety Board has not determined the cause of the accident in New Mexico, it appears that internal corrosion was a major factor. The transmission line in New Mexico ruptured at a point near a sharp bend in the pipe. An electronic internal inspection device, commonly called a smart pig, which is used for detecting corrosion in a pipeline, could not be run through that section of pipe because of the bend. Currently, about the only way to inspect sections of pipe such as this is to dig up the pipe and evaluate it directly. The company in New Mexico is