

companies operating in the State of South Dakota; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

Whereas, there have been numerous accidents and unnecessary fatalities at unlit and unguarded railroad crossings throughout our state; and

Whereas, means now exist by which citizens can be made aware that there are railroad cars blocking the road ahead; and

Whereas, railroad reflectorization would provide positive indication of the presence of a railroad car; and

Whereas, some of the railroads operating in the state have recognized the need for reflectorized railroad cars and have voluntarily reflectorized their railroad cars; and

Whereas, other railroads have not implemented such a reflectorization program: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, by the Senate of the Seventy-fifth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, That all owners of railroad cars in South Dakota and all railroad companies operating in South Dakota be hereby requested to voluntarily reflectorize their railroad cars; and be it further*

*Resolved, That all owners of railroad cars in South Dakota and all railroad companies operating in South Dakota be hereby requested to voluntarily adopt a policy of only leasing railroad cars that have been reflectorized; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the South Dakota Congressional Delegation and the Clinton Administration be hereby requested to enact legislation that would require railroads operating in the United States to reflectorize all of their railroad cars in a timely manner.*

POM-424. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relative to the proposed Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 319

Whereas, Fire departments and their volunteer members and employees are an essential element in preserving the public order and safety in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, Firefighters throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania make great sacrifices on behalf of their fellow Pennsylvanians on a daily basis; and

Whereas, Federal, State and local government all share an unspoken obligation to protect the health and safety of firefighters as well as the entirety of the general public; and

Whereas, This obligation requires that fire departments have the financial resources to purchase necessary equipment and other items; and

Whereas, Fire departments constantly find themselves under increased financial constraints in the effort to provide exemplary public protection; and

Whereas, State and local governments continue to bear the overwhelming burden for funding fire departments throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; therefore be it

*Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania strongly urge the United States House of Representatives and Senate to pass and enact the Firefighter Investment and Response Enhancement Act (H.R. No. 1168) and/or similar legislation in order to provide*

directly needed funding for fire departments; and be it further

*Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.*

POM-425. A resolution adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders, Cape May County, NJ relative to the disposal of contaminated materials in the Atlantic Ocean at the Mud Dump site; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-426. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Cambridge, MA relative to the island of Vieques, PR; to the Committee on Armed Services.

POM-427. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to amendment of the Constitution; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1653. A bill to reauthorize and amend the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (Rept. No. 106-230).

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. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. SARBANES):

S. 2181. A bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act to provide full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to provide dedicated funding for other conservation programs, including coastal stewardship, wildlife habitat protection, State and local park and open space preservation, historic preservation, forestry conservation programs, and youth conservation corps; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 2182. A bill to reduce, suspend, or terminate any assistance under the foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act to each country determined by the President to be engaged in oil price fixing to the detriment of the United States economy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Ms. SNOWE, and Mrs. LINCOLN):

S. 2183. A bill to ensure the availability of spectrum to amateur radio operators; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr.

LIEBERMAN, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. SARBANES):

S. 2181. A bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act to provide full funding for funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to provide dedicated funding for other conservation programs, including coastal stewardship, wildlife habitat protection, State and local part and open space preservation, historic preservation, forestry conservation programs, and youth conservation corps; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP ACT

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce the "Conservation and Stewardship Act," which is cosponsored by Senators HOLLINGS, BAUCUS, KERRY, BOXER, LIEBERMAN, BRYAN, AKAKA, LEAHY, and SARBANES. This comprehensive bill will provide permanent and dedicated funding from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas revenues to be used for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and many other important conservation programs, including coastal, wildlife habitat, endangered species, historic preservation, State and local park and open space preservation, forestry and farmland conservation, and youth conservation corps programs. While the bill will ensure much-needed funding for many Federal conservation programs, most of the programs included in the bill will assist States, counties, or cities to implement local conservation and recreation projects. In addition, this legislation will, for the first time, fully fund the Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, which provides payments to local governments for the loss of tax revenues resulting from Federal lands in their jurisdiction.

In developing this bill, I have tried to include a variety of programs to ensure that the benefits from OCS revenues—which are a federal resource belonging to all Americans—are equitably distributed throughout the country. While some programs in the bill are of specific interest to coastal States, others will have more application in interior areas; some programs in the bill provide funding for large cities and urban areas, while others are designed to assist rural communities. If we are to succeed in passing a comprehensive conservation bill this year, the benefits must extend to all regions of the country.

In addition, I think it's important to recognize that several very meritorious legislative proposals have already been put forward. One of my goals in developing this bill was to try and incorporate important programs from the other bills, and I am pleased that many of the sponsors of those proposals are also supporting this bill. I also want to