

S. 2087

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS), and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2087, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve access to benefits under the TRICARE program; to extend and improve certain demonstration programs under the Defense Health Program; and for other purposes.

S. 2097

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2097, a bill to authorize loan guarantees in order to facilitate access to local television broadcast signals in unserved and underserved areas, and for other purposes.

S. 2123

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT), and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2123, a bill to provide Outer Continental Shelf Impact assistance to State and local governments, to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978, and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) to establish a fund to meet the outdoor conservation and recreation needs of the American people, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 84

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) and the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 84, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the naming of aircraft carrier CVN-77, the last vessel of the historic *Nimitz* class of aircraft carriers, as the U.S.S. *Lexington*.

S.J. RES. 39

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. ROTH), and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 39, a joint resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Korean War and the service by members of the Armed Forces during such war, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 87

At the request of Mr. L. CHAFEE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 87, a resolution commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the International Visitors Program.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 1999ABRAHAM (AND OTHERS)
AMENDMENT NO. 2882

(Ordered referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation)

Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. KOHL, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. BAYH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them to the bill (S. 1089) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for the United States Coast Guard, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 4, beginning on line 8, strike "\$350,326,000" and all that follows through page 4, line 12, and insert the following: "\$488,326,000, to remain available until expended, of which—

"(A) \$20,000,000 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to carry out the purposes of section 1012(a)(5) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990; and

"(B) \$128,000,000 shall be available for construction or acquisition of a replacement vessel for the Coast guard icebreaker MACKINAW."

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today, along with several of my fellow Great Lakes Senators, to introduce an amendment to Senate Bill 1089, the Coast Guard Authorization Act. I want to thank Senators DEWINE, FEINGOLD, GRAMS, KOHL, LUGAR, SANTORUM, VOINOVICH, and WELLSTONE for their support and commitment to the continued presence of a suitable and reliable heavy icebreaking capability on the Great Lakes. The purpose of our amendment is to authorize adequate funding to replace the current Great Lakes icebreaker, the *Mackinaw*, which is scheduled for decommissioning in 2006.

Mr. President, heavy icebreaking on the Great Lakes is vital to the region's industry. Each year, almost 200 million tons of cargo travel across the Great Lakes, including 70 percent of U.S. steel. Transportation of U.S. steel alone directly affects 108,000 jobs, and indirectly affects 400,000.

Shipping on the Great Lakes faces a unique challenge because the season begins and ends in ice. Windrows, slabs of broken ice piled atop each other by the wind, can reach 15 feet in thickness. The *Mackinaw*, with 12,000 horsepower packed into her 290-foot-long hull has kept commerce moving even under the most trying conditions since 1944. The presence of the *Mackinaw* improves shipping efficiency, reliability, and competition. Further, shipping provides a more environmentally sound alternative to surface transportation, because maritime shipments use less fuel and produce fewer emissions than rail and truck alternatives.

Mr. President, after over 55 years of service, the *Mackinaw's* productive life is nearing an end. The Coast Guard has committed to keeping the cutter in service until 2006, when it hopes to have a replacement vessel operating. To meet this important deadline, funds to construct a multi-purpose heavy icebreaker must be included in the fiscal year 2001 budget, which is why I have joined with the aforementioned Great Lakes Senators in seeking authorization. In addition, I and several other Senators have sent various letters requesting appropriations for the *Mackinaw*, as well as an assumption within the fiscal year 2001 budget resolution for this funding.

The construction of a multi-purpose vessel designed to perform icebreaking operations will bring the cutter's mission profile in line with Coast Guard employment standards while improving the efficiency of the Great Lakes fleet performance. Extensive studies and modeling validate the feasibility of a multi-purpose design. Additionally, the multi-mission design is less than 4 percent more expensive than a single-purpose design, and provides a more robust Great Lakes fleet by increasing the number of available operational days by 38 percent.

Without a heavy icebreaker, the Great Lakes shipping season could be shortened by as much as 10 weeks, causing a host of problems for which there are few solutions and none of which are in the region's best interests. We must appropriate these funds this year, and to do that we should make sure that the authorization bill provides for this important one-time expense so that there will be no doubt as to the intent of Congress on this important project.

And Mr. President, let me just inform my colleagues that this is not simply a Great Lakes issue. The winter Great Lakes maritime commerce dependent upon the availability of a heavy icebreaker is the same maritime commerce that delivers iron ore to steel mills along the Eastern Seaboard and the South, the same maritime commerce that delivers aggregates to the Mid-Atlantic, and the same maritime commerce that delivers agricultural projects throughout the United States and overseas. With that in mind, I ask for the support of all of my colleagues to assure the continued operation of Great Lakes icebreaking through the full funding of the Great Lakes ice breaker in fiscal year 2001. •

• Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, today I join my good friend from Michigan, Senator ABRAHAM, and the rest of the Great Lakes delegation in sponsoring this very important amendment to provide funds for the construction of a new ice-breaking vessel to replace the *Mackinaw*. Stationed on the Great Lakes, the *Mackinaw* operates during the ice season, which lasts from December 15th through April 15th. My

colleagues from the Great Lakes region know the importance of this vessel during those 4 months. Without this boat, regional commerce on the water would be significantly impaired. Approximately 14 million tons of cargo are moved on the Great Lakes during the ice season. This cargo includes iron ore, coal, limestone, cement, and grain. These resources are necessary to our entire country and our economy.

In addition to the economic need for ice-breaking on the Great Lakes, there are national defense implications. The *Mackinaw* was christened in 1944 to meet our nation's wartime need for iron ore. Today, more than 70 percent of our nation's steelmaking capacity is located in the Great Lakes basin. Should our country ever become embroiled in a protracted military crisis, our ability to transit the Lakes during periods of ice cover would be crucial.

Mr. President, the *Mackinaw* is showing signs of its age, and the time has come to replace the vessel. After several years of studying a replacement design, the Coast Guard has concluded that a multi-purpose ice-breaking vessel is the preferred option. Not only will this replacement ship perform ice-breaking services, but it also will maintain floating aids-to-navigation. Compared with the construction of a single-purpose icebreaker, the multi-mission design increases the number of available operational days by 38 percent.

Constructing a multi-purpose ice-breaking vessel is a common-sense solution to address the needs of the Great Lakes. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. ●

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a legislative hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, March 22, 2000 at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills: H.R. 862, To direct the Secretary of the Interior to implement the provisions of an agreement conveying title to a distribution system from the United States to the Clear Creek Community Services District; H.R. 992, to convey the Sly Park Dam and Reservoir to the El Dorado Irrigation District; H.R. 1235, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts with the Solano County Water Agency, California, to use Solano Project facilities for impounding, storage, and carriage of nonproject water for domestic, municipal, industrial, and other beneficial purposes; S. 2091 and the companion

H.R. 3077, To amend the Act that authorized construction of the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project, California, to facilitate water transfers in the Central Valley Project; S. 1659, To convey the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project, the Savage Unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program, and the Intake Irrigation Project to the appurtenant irrigation districts; and S. 1836, To extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Alabama.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Subcommittee on Water and Power, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150.

For further information, please call Trici Heninger, Staff Assistant, or Colleen Deegan, Counsel, at (202) 224-8115.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be permitted to meet on March 6, 2000, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Hart 216 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, March 6, 2000, at 2:30 p.m., in open and closed sessions to receive testimony on the Department of Defense's Cooperative Threat Program and the Department of Energy's Russian Threat Reduction Programs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, for our leader, I ask unanimous consent that at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 7, the Senate proceed to executive session and immediately proceed to a vote on the confirmation of Calendar No. 423, the nomination of Julio M. Fuentes to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Finally, I ask unanimous consent that following the vote, the President be notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I now ask unanimous consent that it be in order to ask for the yeas and nays on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Therefore, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2000

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 7. I further ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m. with Senators speaking for up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions:

Senator BROWNBACK, 30 minutes; Senators MURKOWSKI and HATCH, 20 minutes total; Senator COLLINS, 15 minutes; Senator GRAMS, 45 minutes; Senator DORGAN, 20 minutes; and Senator DURBIN, 20 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I further ask consent that the Senate recess from 12:30 to 2:15 on Tuesday for the weekly policy luncheons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 on Tuesday, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider en bloc Executive Calendar No. 159 and No. 208, the nominations of Marsha Berzon and Richard Paez.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. For the information of all Senators, following the party luncheons tomorrow, the Senate will begin consideration of two Ninth Circuit judges who are on the calendar. There are a number of Senators who have expressed a desire to speak with respect to those nominations.

Under a previous order, at 5 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the Senate will vote on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 423, the nomination of Julio Fuentes. Senators can, therefore, expect the next vote to occur at 5 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. Votes are expected each day and possibly evening this week as the Senate attempts to