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

By Mr. REID:
S. 2749. A bill to establish the California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, Nevada, to facilitate the interpretation of the history of development and use of trails in the setting of the western portion of the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

CALIFORNIA TRAIL INTERPRETIVE ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the California Trail Interpretive Act.

The nineteenth century westward emigration on the California National Historic Trail, which occurred from 1840 until the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869, was an important cultural and historical era in the settlement of the West. This influx of settlers contributed to the development of lands in the western United States by Americans and immigrants and to the prevention of colonization of the west coast by Russia and the British Empire. More than 300,000 settlers traveled the California Trail and documented their amazing experiences in detailed journals. Under the National Trails System Act, the Secretary of Interior may establish interpretation centers to document and celebrate pioneer trails such as the California National Historic Trail. In Nevada, Elko County alone contains over 435 miles of National Historic Trails.

Mr. President, recognition and interpretation of the preserved history on the Trail is appropriate in light of Americans' strong interest in understanding our history and heritage. Those who pursue Western Americana, and thousands do, will find physical evidence in the Beowawe Cemetery of the original pioneers. One pioneer journal bemoaned the death of an elderly lady traveling west with her family. Her grave and its marker are in evidence in the Beowawe Cemetery near the trail river crossing known as gravel Ford for historical confirmation. And, if the present-day explorers choose to walk part of the California Trail, they may do so at this place. To the east of this river crossing is around five miles of undisturbed trail that leads down from what is known as "Emigrant Pass". This Act authorizes the planning, construction, and operation of a visitor center.

The cooperative parties include the State of Nevada, the Advisory Council for the Interpretive Center, Elko County, the City of Elko, and the Bureau of Land Management. The Interpretive Center will be located near the city of Elko, in northeastern Nevada. The location is the junction of the California Trail and the Hastings Cutoff. The ill-fated Reed-Donner party spent an additional 31 days meandering over the so-called Hastings Cutoff route; precious time wasted that kept them from crossing the deadly Sierra Nevada before winter struck in 1846.

At 1:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4578. An act making appropriations for the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

At 1:00 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4387. An act to provide that the School Government Charter Amendment Act of 2000 shall take effect upon the date such Act is so modified by the voters of the District of Columbia.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore (Mr. Thurmond).

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. REID:
S. 2750. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of the Interior to participate constructively in the implementation of the Las Vegas Wash Wetland Restoration and Protection Project, Nevada; to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

By Mr. REID:
S. 2751. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Nevada, to the Secretary of the Interior, in trust for the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. THOMPSON:
S. 2762. To amend the North Korea Threat Reduction Act of 1999 to enhance congressional oversight to nuclear transfers to North Korea and to prohibit the assumption by the United States Government of liability for nuclear accidents that may occur at nuclear reactors provided to North Korea; read the first time.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for himself, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BINGHAM, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SABATO, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. WELLSTONE):
S. 2753. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide a prescription drug benefit for the aged and disabled under the medicare program, to enhance the preventive benefits covered under such program, and for other purposes; placed on the calendar.

SMITH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBB, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SABATO, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. WELLSTONE)

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REID:

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE
This Act may establish an interpretation center to be known as the "California Trail Interpretive Center", near the city of Elko, Nevada.

(2) PURPOSE.—The Center shall be for the purpose of interpreting the history of development and use of the California Trail in the settling of the West.

(b) MASTER PLAN STUDY.—To carry out subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(i) consider the findings of the master plan study for the California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, Nevada, as authorized by page 15 of Senate Report 106–99; and

(ii) initiate a plan for the development of the Center that includes—

(A) a detailed description of the design of the Center;

(B) a description of the site on which the Center is to be located;

(C) a description of the method and estimated cost of acquisition of the site on which the Center is to be located;

(D) the estimated cost of construction of the Center;

(E) the cost of operation and maintenance of the Center; and

(F) a description of the manner and extent to which non-Federal entities shall participate in the acquisition and construction of the Center.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—To carry out subsection (a), the Secretary may—

(i) acquire land and interests in land for the construction of the Center by—

(A) donation;

(B) purchase with donated or appropriated funds; or

(C) exchange;

(ii) provide for local review of and input concerning the development and operation of the Center by the Advisory Board for the National Historic California Emigrant Trails Interpretive Center of the city of Elko, Nevada;

(iii) periodically prepare a budget and funding request that allows a Federal agency to carry out the maintenance and operation of the Center;

(iv) enter into a cooperative agreement with—

(A) the State, to provide assistance in—

(i) removal of snow from roads;

(ii) rescue, firefighting, and law enforcement services; and

(iii) coordination of activities of nearby law enforcement and firefighting departments or agencies;

(B) a Federal, State, or local agency to develop or operate facilities and services to carry out this Act; and

(v) notwithstanding any other provision of law, accept donations of funds, property, or services from an individual, foundation, corporation, or public entity to provide a service or facility that is consistent with this Act, as determined by the Secretary, including 1-time contributions for the Center (to be payable during construction funding periods for the Center after the date of enactment of this Act) from—

(A) the State, in the amount of $3,000,000;

(B) Elko County, Nevada, in the amount of $1,000,000; and

(C) the city of Elko, Nevada, in the amount of $2,000,000.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act $12,000,000.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2750. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of the Interior to participate constructively in the implementation of the Las Vegas Wash Wetland Restoration and Lake Mead Water Quality Improvement Project, Nevada, to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

LAS VEGAS WASH WETLAND RESTORATION AND LAKE MEAD WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce today the Las Vegas Wash Wetland Restoration and Lake Mead Water Quality Improvement Act of 2000. This bill is important for Nevada’s families and for the environment, because water is our most precious natural resource.

My bill is the product of a visionary, locally-led initiative designed to develop and implement a plan that would improve local water quality in the Las Vegas basin.

Importantly, my bill would safeguard southern Nevada’s water supply and improve the unique desert wetlands environment of the Las Vegas Wash.

I would like to review some of the history that contributed to the development of this bill.

In 1998, in response to a recommendation by a citizens’ water quality advisory committee, the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee was formed to develop a comprehensive Adaptive Management Plan (AMP) for the Las Vegas Wash ecosystem.

The AMP, which was developed by the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee over the past two years and approved early this year by the Southern Nevada Water Authority, represents a vision for how local, State, and Federal stakeholders can work together to achieve shared water quality and ecosystem restoration goals in the Las Vegas basin.

First and foremost, the AMP is a locally-driven strategy. The stakeholder working group, coordinated by the Southern Nevada Water Authority and comprised of 28 groups, contributed their varied perspectives and good ideas to the development of this plan.

A draft of the AMP was published for public comment in October 1999. In January 2000, the Southern Nevada Water Authority finalized and approved the AMP.

Chief among the recommendations in the AMP was the call for development of a partnership consisting of local, State, Federal agencies with interests in the Las Vegas Wash ecosystem. I view this plan as a Nevada solution to a tremendous local challenge of accelerated erosion and deteriorating water quality.

I commend the local, State, and Federal stakeholders that helped create the AMP for their hard work, cooperation, and dedication to improving Southern Nevada’s environment for Nevada’s families today and for future generations.
The Federal government, by virtue of its land ownership in Nevada and reponsibilities at Lake Mead, has an obligation to help make the plan work. In addition, the Federal government is uniquely responsible for the per- chlorate contamination which contrib- utes to the groundwater contamination that pollutes Las Vegas Wash run-off. My bill directs the relevant Federal agencies to participate in efforts to re- store Las Vegas Wash and protect Lake Mead's water quality. These agencies include: the Environmental Protection Agency, the Bureau of Land Manage- ment, the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Park Service, the Natural Re- sources Conservation Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Army Corps of Engineers.

I hope that the Senate will move quickly to consider and pass this bill so that Federal agencies can become full partners in the effort to rehabilitate and conserve the Las Vegas Wash desert ecosystem and to improve water quality in southern Nevada's most heavily used watershed.

By Mr. REID:
S. 2751. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain land in the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Nevada, to the Secretary of the Interior, in trust for the Washoe Indian Tribe of Nevada and California; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Re- sources.

WASHOE TRIBE LAND CONVEYANCE LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Washoe Tribe Lake Tahoe Access Act.

In 1997, I helped convene a Presi- dential Forum at Lake Tahoe to dis- cuss the future of the Lake Tahoe Basin. With President Clinton, Federal, State, and local govern- ment leaders, we addressed the protec- tion of the extraordinary natural, rec- reational, and ecological resources of the Lake Tahoe region. Goals and an action plan developed during the Lake Tahoe Forum were codified as the "Presidential Forum Deliverables." These Deliverables included supporting the traditional and customary use of the Lake Tahoe Basin by the Washoe Tribe. Perhaps, most importantly, the Deliverables of the Lake Tahoe forum a reality by ensuring that the Washoe Tribe once again enjoy access to Lake Tahoe.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous con- sent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2751
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Rep- resentatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WASHOE TRIBE LAND CONVEYANCE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—
(1) the ancestral homeland of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (referred to in this section as the "Tribe") included an area of approximately 5,000 square miles in and around Lake Tahoe, California and Ne- vada, and Lake Tahoe was the heart of the territory;
(2) in 1997, Federal, State, and local gov- ernment leaders, together with the Tribe, adopted the Presidential Forum Deliverables of the Lake Tahoe forum a reality by ensuring that the Washoe Tribe once again enjoy access to Lake Tahoe.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—
(1) to implement the joint local, State, tribal, and Federal objective of returning the Tribe to Lake Tahoe; and
(2) to ensure that members of the Tribe have the opportunity to engage in traditional and customary cultural practices on the shore of Lake Tahoe to meet the needs of spiritual renewal, land stewardship, Washoe horticulture and ethnobotany, subsistence gathering, traditional learning, and reuni- fication of tribal and family bonds as was envi- sioned by the parties involved in the Lake Tahoe Forum.

Mr. President, this Act will convey 21.3 acres from the Secretary of Agri- culture to the Secretary of the Interior to be held in trust for the Washoe Tribe. This is land located within the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit north of Skunk Harbor, Nevada. The land in question would be conveyed with the expectation that it would be used for traditional and customary uses and stewardship conservation of the Washoe Tribe and will not permit any commercial use. In the unlikely event this land were used for any com- mercial development purpose, title to the land will revert to the Secretary of Agriculture. It is my sincere hope that Congress will pass this bill thereby making the Presidential Deliverables of the Lake Tahoe region.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous con- sent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2751
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Rep- presentatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WASHOE TRIBE LAND CONVEYANCE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—
(1) the ancestral homeland of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (referred to in this section as the "Tribe") included an area of approximately 5,000 square miles in and around Lake Tahoe, California and Ne- vada, and Lake Tahoe was the heart of the territory;
(2) in 1997, Federal, State, and local gov- ernment leaders, together with the Tribe, adopted the Presidential Forum Deliverables of the Lake Tahoe forum a reality by ensuring that the Washoe Tribe once again enjoy access to Lake Tahoe.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—
(1) to implement the joint local, State, tribal, and Federal objective of returning the Tribe to Lake Tahoe; and
(2) to ensure that members of the Tribe have the opportunity to engage in traditional and customary cultural practices on the shore of Lake Tahoe to meet the needs of spiritual renewal, land stewardship, Washoe horticulture and ethnobotany, subsistence gathering, traditional learning, and reuni- fication of tribal and family bonds as was envi- sioned by the parties involved in the Lake Tahoe Forum.

Mr. President, this Act will convey 21.3 acres from the Secretary of Agri- culture to the Secretary of the Interior to be held in trust for the Washoe Tribe. This is land located within the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit north of Skunk Harbor, Nevada. The land in question would be conveyed with the expectation that it would be used for traditional and customary uses and stewardship conservation of the Washoe Tribe and will not permit any commercial use. In the unlikely event this land were used for any com- mercial development purpose, title to the land will revert to the Secretary of Agriculture. It is my sincere hope that Congress will pass this bill thereby making the Presidential Deliverables of the Lake Tahoe forum a reality by ensuring that the Washoe Tribe once again enjoy access to Lake Tahoe.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous con- sent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2751
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Rep- representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WASHOE TRIBE LAND CONVEYANCE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—
(1) the ancestral homeland of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (referred to in this section as the "Tribe") included an area of approximately 5,000 square miles in and around Lake Tahoe, California and Ne- vada, and Lake Tahoe was the heart of the territory;
(2) in 1997, Federal, State, and local gov- ernment leaders, together with the Tribe, adopted the Presidential Forum Deliverables of the Lake Tahoe forum a reality by ensuring that the Washoe Tribe once again enjoy access to Lake Tahoe.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—
(1) to implement the joint local, State, tribal, and Federal objective of returning the Tribe to Lake Tahoe; and
(2) to ensure that members of the Tribe have the opportunity to engage in traditional and customary cultural practices on the shore of Lake Tahoe to meet the needs of spiritual renewal, land stewardship, Washoe horticulture and ethnobotany, subsistence gathering, traditional learning, and reuni- fication of tribal and family bonds as was envi- sioned by the parties involved in the Lake Tahoe Forum.