

CEE also provides funding for the Conservation of Private Grazing Lands program. This program offers technical assistance to ranchers seeking to implement best management practices and other range improvements.

The bill codifies existing practices for the Resource Conservation and Development, RC&D, program, while increasing flexibility in the use of funds. RC&Ds effectively leverage federal funds to assist in stabilizing and growing communities while protecting and developing natural resources.

CEE also provides for several studies. It authorizes a National Academy of Sciences study to develop a protocol for measuring accomplishments. This protocol is necessary to ensure we are getting maximum environmental benefits for the taxpayer.

The bill also directs the Secretary of Agriculture to review existing disaster programs and report on how to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of the overall disaster program. Natural disasters are a constant threat to farmers and ranchers. Flooding, drought, fire, and other natural events impact even the most efficient operations, causing losses beyond producer control. An effective disaster program is vital to the survival of many farms and ranches.

Conservation programs are vital to continued progress in creating efficient, environmentally and farmer-friendly agricultural policies. This bill sets a baseline as we endeavor to create a farm policy that recognizes the importance of conservation efforts, builds upon past efforts, is equitable, and has measurable achievements. I ask my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this bill.

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#### STATEMENTS ON SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

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#### SENATE RESOLUTION 140—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 15, 2002, AS “NATIONAL CIVIC PARTICIPATION WEEK”.

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted the following resolution: which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

S. RES. 140

Whereas the United States embarks on this new millennium as the world's model of democratic ideals, economic enterprise, and technological innovation and discovery;

Whereas our Nation's preeminence is a tribute to our great 2-century-old experiment in representative government that nurtures those ideals, fosters economic vitality, and encourages innovation and discovery;

Whereas representative government is dependent on the exercise of the privileges and responsibilities of its citizens, and that has been in decline in recent years in both civic and political participation;

Whereas Alexis de Tocqueville, the 19th century French chronicler of our Nation's

political behavior, observed that the people of the United States had successfully resisted democratic apathy and mild despotism by using what he called “schools of freedom”—local institutions and associations where citizens learn to listen and trust each other;

Whereas civic and political participation remains the school in which citizens engage in the free, diverse, and positive political dialogue that guides our Nation toward common interests, consensus, and good governance;

Whereas it is in the public interest for our Nation's leaders to foster civic discourse, education, and participation in Federal, State, and local affairs;

Whereas the advent of revolutionary Internet technology offers new mechanisms for empowering our citizens and fostering greater civic engagement than at anytime in our peacetime history; and

Whereas the use of new technologies can bring people together in civic forums, educate citizens on their roles and responsibilities, and promote citizen participation in the political process through volunteerism, voting, and the elevation of voices in public discourse: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,*

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL CIVIC PARTICIPATION WEEK.

The Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning September 15, 2002, as “National Civic Participation Week”;

(2) proclaims National Civic Participation Week as a week of inauguration of programs and activities that will lead to greater participation in elections and the political process; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon interested organizations and the people of the United States to promote programs and activities that take full advantage of the technological resources available in fostering civic participation through the dissemination of information.

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam President, we stand in the midst of an amazing period of history. Not since the industrial revolution has society witnessed such an explosion of technological advancements. The rise of the Internet yields volumes of information to anyone at anytime and is only a mouse click away. It is imperative that we use this medium responsibly.

The strength of our country is deeply rooted in informed citizens freely exchanging ideas. Common men and women engaged in the political process is the lifeblood of the United States. As legislators, we are the stewards of democracy. It is our duty to encourage citizens of all persuasions to actively play a role in this democratic saga.

With the emergence of the Internet, there is no better way to make this possible than by supporting this resolution. I, along with my distinguished colleague, DIANNE FEINSTEIN of California, am submitting a resolution entitled, “The National Civic Participation Week.” It declares the week of September 15, 2002 as a time devoted to the education of the political process on the Internet. This resolution challenges the technical industry to create

Web sites that promote civic involvement. Further, it calls on local communities to establish links that provide helpful information to its citizens such as polling locations, registration, and, voter information.

We submit this resolution today in response to the declining participation in the American political system, particularly among younger citizens. I offer some sobering statistics: In the last presidential election, of the 25.5 million Americans between the ages of 18–24, only 19 percent registered to vote and only 16 percent actually voted. In the 1996 presidential election, of the 24 million Americans that age, only 47 percent registered, and 32 percent voted. 22 percent of U.S. teens did not know from whom the United States won its independence. 14 percent thought it was France. 10 percent didn't know there were thirteen original colonies. About 23 percent didn't know who fought in the civil war.

Our country has come along way from the early days of the thirteen colonies. Those were times, as Alexis de Tocqueville wrote in his “Democracy in America,” of citizens creating “freedom schools” to teach and learn of freedom and democracy and the role that each of us can play to help it flourish.

We believe that the Internet and other new technologies can play a crucial role in acting as “freedom schools.” With so many young people drawn to the Internet, it is an ideal medium to cultivate democratic virtues and encourage participation. The possibilities are numerous. The World Wide Web has the potential to assist citizens on finding information with how the government works, how laws are made, and how citizens can effectively communicate with their elected officials.

This resolution offers no Federal mandates or governmental expenditures. It does not prescribe what information should be posted on the web or how it is disseminated. Instead, we as Senators are making a collective statement that we recognize the power of the Internet and its vast potential at promoting civic virtues. It is a resolution that encourages those within the technology industry to provide valuable information on the inner-workings of democracy.

Let us use the Internet's vast information highway to cultivate learning and greater awareness in civic affairs. It is our sincere hope that we can rekindle the spirit of the “freedom school” of the American Revolution through the Internet. May these new technologies illuminate and continue the lessons and dreams of our forefathers.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today Senator ROBERTS and I are submitting a resolution on civic participation. The resolution has three provisions: 1. It proclaims the week beginning September 15, 2002 as National Civic Participation Week; 2. It proclaims National Civic Participation Week as a week of programs and activities that encourage greater participation in elections and the political process; and 3. It requests the President to issue a proclamation calling on organizations and the people of the country to promote the use of technology in fostering civic participation through the dissemination of information.

The thrust of this resolution is to encourage activities among Americans, especially young people, to use technology to become more involved in the country's civic life.

As our Nation's leaders, it is our job to show Americans, especially young people, the importance of being involved in local, State, and national affairs.

Civic participation is the arena in which citizens can express their views and engage in dialogue and actions that, influence public policy and guide public officials to carry out the citizen's views and recommendations.

With advances in Internet technology and other computerized forms of communication, today we can offer citizens new and innovative ways of learning about and interacting with their local, State and Federal Government in an easily accessible way.

With only 65.9 percent of all Americans registered to vote in the 1996 Presidential election, according to the Federal Election Commission, the Civic Participation Week resolution will try to make more people aware of their right and responsibility to take an active role in government.

There is no question that we need more Americans involved in their government. In fact, our democracy depends on it. In the most recent Presidential election last year in the United States, only 50.7 percent of the registered voters actually voted, according to the November 9, 2000 Washington Post. This compares to 49 percent in the 1996 and 50.1 percent in the 1988 Federal elections.

Among young people, the voter turnout in this country is considerably lower. In the 18–21 age group, only 43.6 percent are registered to vote, and a dismal 18.5 percent actually voted in 1998, according to Federal Election Commission data.

In many other countries, the voter turnout is considerably higher than in the United States. According to the Federal Election Commission, in Kazakhstan's 1999 Presidential election, there was a 87.05 percent voter turnout. In Iceland, there was a 85.9 percent voter turnout in the 1996 Presidential election. The 1995 Presidential

election in Argentina had a 80.9 percent turnout of registered voters.

Internet technology may be an especially effective way to reach young Americans because information is highly accessible. Available at the click of a mouse, and young people seem to prefer computers as an information-gathering tool over more traditional methods.

This use of new technology can help bring people together and can promote citizen participation in the political process through more volunteerism, easier access to information, and heightened activism in our Nation's civic life.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 141—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK V. ADELA HOLZER

Mr. DASCHLE (for himself and Mr. LOTT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 141

Whereas, the District Attorney of the County of New York in the State of New York is seeking testimony before the Grand Jury of the County of New York from Garry Malphrus, an employee on the staff of the Committee on the Judiciary, in a criminal action prosecuted by the People of the State of New York against Adela Holzer;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics of Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistently with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That Garry Malphrus is authorized to testify in People of the State of New York v. Adela Holzer, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Garry Malphrus in connection with the testimony authorized in section one of this resolution.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will meet on July 31, 2001, in SR-328A at 9 a.m. The purpose of this

hearing will be to discuss conservation on working lands for the next federal farm bill.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will meet on August 2, 2001, in SR-328A at 9 a.m. The purpose of this hearing will be to discuss rural economic development issues for the next federal farm bill.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet on Thursday, August 2, 2001, at 9 a.m., in SR-301, Russell Senate Office Building, to consider the following legislation: S. 565, the "Equal Protection of Voting Rights Act of 2001"; an original resolution providing for members on the part of the Senate of the Joint Committee on Printing and the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library; S.J. Res. 19 and 20, providing for the reappointment of Anne d'Harnoncourt and the appointment of Roger W. Sant, respectively, as Smithsonian Institution citizen regents; S. 829, the "National Museum of African American History and Culture Act of 2001"; and other legislative and administrative matters ready for consideration at the time of the markup.

For further information regarding this markup, please contact Kennie Gill at the Rules Committee on 224-6352.

SUBCOMMITTEE PRODUCTION AND PRICE COMPETITIVENESS

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Subcommittee on Production and Price Competitiveness will meet on August 1, 2001, in SR-328A at 9 a.m. The purpose of this hearing will be to consider the U.S. Export Market Share.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, July 27, 2001, to conduct the second in a series of hearings on "Predatory Mortgage Lending: The Problem, Impact, and Responses."

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday,