

in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the possessions of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 540

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 540, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow as a deduction in determining adjusted gross income the deduction for expenses in connection with services as a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States, to allow employers a credit against income tax with respect to employees who participate in the military reserve components, and to allow a comparable credit for participating reserve component self-employed individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 543

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 543, a bill to provide for equal coverage of mental health benefits with respect to health insurance coverage unless comparable limitations are imposed on medical and surgical benefits.

S. 630

At the request of Mr. BURNS, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 630, a bill to prohibit senders of unsolicited commercial electronic mail from disguising the source of their messages, to give consumers the choice to cease receiving a sender's unsolicited commercial electronic mail messages, and for other purposes.

S. 685

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 685, a bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to strengthen working families, and for other purposes.

S. 905

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 905, a bill to provide incentives for school construction, and for other purposes.

S. 1194

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1194, a bill to impose certain limitations on the receipt of out-of-State municipal solid waste, to authorize State and local controls over the flow of municipal solid waste, and for other purposes.

S. 1206

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

CLELAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1206, a bill to reauthorize the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

S. 1209

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1209, a bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to consolidate and improve the trade adjustment assistance programs, to provide community-based economic development assistance for trade-affected communities, and for other purposes.

S. 1257

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH of Oregon) were added as cosponsors of S. 1257, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a theme study to identify sites and resources to commemorate and interpret the Cold War.

S. 1286

At the request of Mrs. CARNAHAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1286, a bill to provide for greater access to child care services for Federal employees.

S. 1371

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1371, a bill to combat money laundering and protect the United States financial system by strengthening safeguards in private banking and correspondent banking, and for other purposes.

S. 1379

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1379, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of Rare Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

S. 1397

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1397, a bill to ensure availability of the mail to transmit shipments of day-old poultry.

S. 1400

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1400, a bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to extend the deadline for aliens to present a border crossing card that contains a biometric identifier matching the appropriate biometric characteristic of the alien.

S. 1434

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1434, a bill to authorize the President

to award posthumously the Congressional Gold Medal to the passengers and crew of United Airlines flight 93 in the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the United States on September 11, 2001.

S. 1444

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1444, a bill to establish a Federal air marshals program under the Attorney General.

S. 1447

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1447, a bill to improve aviation security, and for other purposes.

S. 1454

At the request of Mrs. CARNAHAN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAU), the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON of Florida), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1454, a bill to provide assistance for employees who are separated from employment as a result of reductions in service by air carriers, and closures of airports, caused by terrorist actions or security measures.

S.J. RES. 8

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 8, a joint resolution designating 2002 as the "Year of the Rose."

S.J. RES. 18

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 18, a joint resolution memorializing fallen firefighters by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the day of the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

S. CON. RES. 66

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 66, a concurrent resolution to express the sense of the Congress that the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor should be awarded to public safety officers killed in the line of duty in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

AMENDMENT NO. 1621

At the request of Mr. DAYTON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1621 intended to be proposed to S. 1438, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military constructions, and for defense activities of the

Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1636

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as co-sponsors of amendment No. 1636 intended to be proposed to S. 1438, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military constructions, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 1466. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to provide grants for special environmental assistance for the regulation of communities and habitat ("SEARCH grants") to small communities; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to authorize a national environmental grants program called Project SEARCH. Project SEARCH is a simplified, flexible program that targets small communities most in need of assistance in meeting environmental goals.

I am particularly excited about the proposal. I have heard from partners interested in helping with the legislation and from colleagues who recognize the unique challenges small communities face achieving environmental goals. Because of our mutual interest in helping small communities respond to environmental problems, I invite my colleagues to join me in supporting this measure.

The national Project SEARCH, Special Environmental Assistance for the Regulation of Communities and Habitat, concept is based on a pilot program that operated with great success in Idaho in 1999 and 2000. In short, the bill establishes a simplified application process for communities with populations under 2,500 to receive assistance grants for meeting a broad array of Federal, State, or local environmental regulations. Grants would be available for initial feasibility studies, to address unanticipated costs arising during the course of a project, or when a community demonstrates that other sources of funding are unavailable or insufficient.

Some of the major highlights of the program are: a simplified application process—no special grants coordinators required; communities must first have

attempted to receive funds from traditional sources; it is open to studies or projects involving any environmental regulation; applications are reviewed and approved by citizens panel of volunteers; the panel chooses the number of recipients and size of grants; the panel consists of volunteers representing all regions of the state; and no local match is required to receive the SEARCH funds.

Over the past several years, it has become increasingly apparent that small communities are having problems complying with environmental rules and regulations due primarily to lack of funding, not a willingness to do so. They, like all of us, want clean water and air and a healthy natural environment. Sometimes, they simply cannot shoulder the financial burden with their limited resources.

In addition, small communities wishing to pursue unique collaborative efforts might be discouraged by grant administrators who prefer conformity. Some run into unexpected costs during a project and have borrowed and bonded to the maximum. Others are in critical habitat locations and any project may have additional costs, which may not be recognized by traditional financial sources. Still others just need help for the initial environmental feasibility study so they can identify the most effective path forward.

With these needs in mind, in 1998, I was able to secure \$1.3 million for a grant program for Idaho's small communities. Idaho's program does not replace other funding sources, but serves as a final resort when all other means have been exhausted.

The application process was simplified so that any small town mayor, county commissioner, sewer district chairman, or community leader could manage it without hiring a professional grant writer. An independent citizens committee with statewide representation was established to make the selections and get the funds on the ground as quickly as possible. No bureaucratic or political intrusions were permitted.

Forty-four communities in Idaho ultimately applied, not including two that failed to meet the eligibility requirements. Ultimately, twenty-one communities were awarded grants in several categories, and ranged in size from \$9,000 to \$319,000. Communities serving Native Americans and migrants, as well as several innovative collaborative efforts were included in the successful applicants. The communities that were not selected are being given assistance in exploring other funding sources and other advice.

The response and feedback from all participants has been overwhelmingly positive. Officials from the state and federal government who witnessed the process have stated that the process worked well and was able to accom-

plish much on a volunteer basis. There was even extraordinary appreciation from other funding agencies because some communities they were not able to reach were provided funds for feasibility studies.

The conclusion of all participants was that Project SEARCH is a program worthy of being expanded nationally. So many small communities in so many states can benefit from a program that assists underserved and often overlooked communities. This legislation provides us the opportunity to help small communities throughout the United States.

I have been encouraged by statements from regulatory officials at the Federal, State, and local level that have identified small communities as particularly in need of assistance in this area. Environmental organizations have also made favorable remarks about the importance of assisting small communities with the compliance costs of environmental regulations. Finally, I should also note that organizations representing small towns and rural areas recognize this long overlooked problem.

I invite my colleagues to take this opportunity to assist small communities in each of their States. Although the grant program provided for in this bill is not large in comparison to other things the Federal Government funds, these resources could be put to good and effective use, as Idaho has proven. Moreover, I will remind everyone that nowhere does this measure contemplate a change in environmental regulations or standards. This is simply about relief for small communities that would not otherwise be able to serve the public interest or the environment.

By Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. KOHL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. REED):

S. 1467. A bill to amend the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000 to extend the deadlines for application and payment of fees; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Bruce Vento Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Extension Act. The Act is named after my late colleague and dear friend, Congressman Bruce Vento. Congressman Vento dedicated much of his career to working with the Hmong community in Minnesota. He worked for a decade to ensure the passage of the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act. This bill would make it possible for all eligible Hmong veterans and their wives to receive the benefits they are due under this Act by extending the application deadline from November 26, 2001 to May 26, 2003.

With less than 3 months remaining before the deadline passes for most of