CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

June 28, 2001

S. 1121. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain R-core transformers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TORRICELLI:

S. 1122. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a refundable credit against tax with respect to education and training of developmentally disabled children; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINGOLD (for himself, Mr. CRAIO, and Mr. KORH): S. 1123. A bill to amend the Dairy Production Stabilization Act of 1983 to ensure that all persons who benefit from the dairy promotion and research program contribute to the cost of the program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. THOMPSON:

S. 1124. A bill to amend section 1301 of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 to provide for a user fee to cover the cost of customs inspections at express courier facilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. FRAZIER, Mr. HAYDEN, Mr. HELMS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. REED, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1125. A bill to conserve global bear populations by prohibiting the importation, exportation, and interstate trade of bear viscera and items, products, or substances containing, or labeled or advertised as containing, bear viscera; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 1126. A bill to facilitate the deployment of broadband telecommunications services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. CARNAHAN, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 1127. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a study of the extent to which the coverage of members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces under health benefits plans and to submit a report on the study of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BOXER (for herself and Mr. SMITH of Oregon):

S. 1128. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to increase the authorization for appropriations for fiscal year 2002, and to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003, to combat HIV and AIDS, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. KERRY):

S. 1129. A bill to increase the rate of pay for certain offices and positions within the executive and judicial branches of the Government, respectively, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. CORZINE):

S. 1130. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to develop a plan for a magnetic fusion burning plasma experiment for the purposes of advancing the scientific understanding and development of fusion as a long term energy source, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEAHY:

S. 1131. A bill to promote economically sound modernization of electric power generating space-based nuclear reactors in the United States, to establish requirements to improve the combustion heat rate efficiency of fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units, to reduce emissions of mercury, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, oxides, and sulfur dioxide, to require that all fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units operating in the United States meet new sources review requirements, to promote the use of clean coal technologies, and to promote alternative energy and clean energy sources such as solar, wind, biomass, and fuel cells; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAPO:


By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. CARNAHAN, and Mr. BOND):

S. 1133. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to preserve nonstop air service to and from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport for certain communities in case of airline bankruptcy; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 1134. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules applicable to qualified small business stock; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. CONRAD, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. MILLER, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 1135. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide comprehensive reform of the medicare program, including the provision of coverage of outpatient prescription drugs under such program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. CORZINE, Mr. DODD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REID, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. THOMPSON, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1136. A bill to provide for mass transportation in certain Federally owned or managed areas that are open to the general public; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1137. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to convey the remaining water supply storage allocation in Rathbun Lake, Iowa, to the Rathbun Regional Water Association; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1133. At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor.

S. 1135. At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a co-sponsor.

S. 1136. At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Michigan.
(Mr. Levin) was added as a cosponsor of S. 280, a bill to amend the Agriculture Marketing Act of 1986 to require retailers of beef, lamb, pork, and perishable agricultural commodities to inform consumers, at the final point of sale to consumers, of the country of origin of the commodities.

At the request of Mr. Santorum, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) was added as a cosponsor of S. 592, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create Individual Development Accounts, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Collins, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. Snowe) was added as a cosponsor of S. 634, a bill to amend section 2007 of the Social Security Act to provide grant funding for additional Enterprise Communities, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Thompson, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. Cochran) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Hagel) were added as cosponsors of S. 661, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 4.3-cent motor fuel excise taxes on railroads and inland waterway transportations which remain in the general fund of the Treasury.

At the request of Mr. Hatch, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. Bayh) was added as a cosponsor of S. 677, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the required use of certain principal repayments on mortgage subsidy bond financing to redeem bonds, to modify the purchase price limitation under mortgage subsidy bond rules based on median family income, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mrs. Lincoln, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. Rockefeller) was added as a cosponsor of S. 775, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit expansion of medical residency training programs in geriatric medicine and to provide for reimbursement of care coordination and assessment services provided under the medicare program.

At the request of Mr. Hagel, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) was added as a cosponsor of S. 778, a bill to expand the class of beneficiaries who may apply for adjustment of status under section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act by extending the deadline for classification petition and labor certification filings.

At the request of Mr. Dodd, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Kennedy) was added as a cosponsor of S. 814, a bill to establish the Child Care Provider Retention and Development Grant Program and the Child Care Provider Scholarship Program.

At the request of Mr. Hatch, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Lieberman) was added as a cosponsor of S. 818, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a long-term capital gains exclusion for individuals, and to reduce the holding period for long-term capital gain treatment to 6 months, and for other purposes.

At the request of Ms. Snowe, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. Carper), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. Sarbanes), and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. Claire) were added as cosponsors of S. 913, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the medicare program of all oral anticancer drugs.

At the request of Mr. Dodd, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. Clinton) was added as a cosponsor of S. 940, a bill to leave no child behind.

At the request of Mr. Nickles, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Kerry) was added as a cosponsor of S. 992, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the provision taxing policy holder dividends of mutual life insurance companies and to repeal the policyholders surplus account provisions.

At the request of Mr. Feinsteine, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. Hatch) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DeWine) were added as cosponsors of S. 1032, a bill to expand assistance to countries seriously affected by HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis.

At the request of Mrs. Hutchison, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. Murkowski) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Lieberman) were added as cosponsors of S. 1037, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize disability retirement to be granted posthumously to member of the Armed Forces who die in the line of duty while on active duty, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Jeffords, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Craig) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. Allard) were added as cosponsors of S. 1038, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve access to tax-exempt debt for small nonprofit health care and educational institutions.

At the request of Mr. Johnson, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1075, a bill to extend and modify the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, to authorize a National Community Drug Coalition Institute, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. Conrad, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. Gramm) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Miller) were added as cosponsors of S. 1087, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a shorter recovery period of the depreciation of certain leasehold improvements.

At the request of Mr. Harkin, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. Graham), the Senator from Florida (Mr. Nelson), and the Senator from California (Mrs. Boxer) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 71, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the need to preserve six day mail delivery.

At the request of Mr. Campbell, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. Cochran), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. Corzine), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. Dorgan), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. Fitzgerald), and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. Thomas) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 99, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Olympics.

At the request of Mr. Fitzgerald, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. Cleland) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 45, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1958 should be fully enforced so as to prevent needless suffering of animals.

At the request of Mr. Corzine, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. Akaka) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 52, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that reducing crime in public housing should be a priority, and that the successful Public Housing Drug Elimination Program should be fully funded.

At the request of Mr. Santorum, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Allen) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 814 proposed to S. 1052, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage.
At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 827 intended to be proposed to S. 1652, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, and Mr. DOMENICI):

S. 1118—A bill to amend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 to identify certain routes in New Mexico as part of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor, a high priority corridor on the National Highway System Committee consisting of the State departments of commerce, science, and transportation.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation to promote the future economic vitality of the communities in Union and Colfax Counties, and throughout Northeast New Mexico. Our bill designates the route for New Mexico’s section of the Ports-to-Plains High Priority Corridor, which runs 1000 miles from Laredo, Texas, to Denver, Colorado. I am pleased to have my colleague, Senator DOMENICI, as a cosponsor.

I am certain every senator recognizes the importance of basic transportation infrastructure to economic development in their State. Roads and airports link a region to the world economy. In New Mexico, it is well known that regions with four-lane highways and economical commercial air service will most readily attract new jobs. I have long pressed at the Federal level to ensure our communities have the roads and airports they need for their long-term economic health. That is why this bill I am introducing today is so important. With the passage of NAFTA, the Ports-to-Plains Corridor is centrally situated to serve international trade and promote economic development along its entire route.

In 1990 Congress identified the corridor from the border with Mexico to Denver, CO, as a High Priority Corridor on the National Highway System. Last year, a comprehensive study was undertaken to determine the feasibility of creating a continuous four-lane highway along the corridor. Alternative highway alignments for the trade corridor were also developed and evaluated. The study was conducted under the direction of a steering committee consisting of the State departments of transportation in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Colorado.

It is important to note that public input was an important facet at every stage of the study. The steering committee sponsored public meetings in May of last year in Clayton, NM, and five other locations along the corridor. A final series of seven public meetings was held this year. I note that the level of public interest and participation was highest in New Mexico. Over 600 citizens attended the public meeting in Raton, NM, on March 6, 2001, while a total of only 700 people attended all six of the other public meetings in Texas, Oklahoma, and Colorado clearly demonstrating the importance of this trade corridor designation to Northeast New Mexico. A final report has just been prepared and a summary can be found on the web at www.wilbursmith.com/portstoplains.

The study evaluated two routes for the trade corridor between Amarillo, TX, and Denver, CO. One route ran along U.S. Highway 67 between Clayton and Raton, NM. The other followed U.S. Highway 287, bypassing New Mexico. The feasibility study found that either route between Amarillo and Denver would result in favorable conditions. However, the alignment through New Mexico, from Clayton to Raton, along U.S. Highway 67, was dramatically more favorable than the alternative in terms of travel efficiency, benefits and feasibility, including travel time savings and accident cost reduction. In particular:

- The benefit-to-cost ratio of the New Mexico route was 75 percent better than for the route bypassing New Mexico.
- The traffic volume in 2025 would be 150 percent higher on the New Mexico corridor than on the alternative, including 25 percent more trucks.
- Two thirds of the New Mexico alignment is already four lanes wide or is soon slated to be widened to four lanes, compared to only one third of the alternative alignment.
- The alternative would require acquisition of more than twice the right-of-way and would displace nearly three times more residential and commercial facilities.
- The New Mexico alignment would serve a population of nearly 2 million persons, compared to 1.5 million for the alternative.
- Finally, the construction costs of the New Mexico alignment are $175 million less than the route bypassing New Mexico.
- The alternative route had a very slight advantage over the New Mexico alignment only in economic development benefits.
- With the feasibility study results now complete, The New Mexico Highway Commission last week voted unanimously to support the designation New Mexico’s portion of the Ports-to-Plains Trade High Priority Corridor along U.S. Highway 67 between Clayton and Raton. The designated route connects into Texas along Highway 87 to Dumas, and to Denver along Interstate 25.

Very simply, this bill advances the same goal, to designate the route between Clayton and Raton in New Mexico as part of the Ports-to-Plains Corridor. As the huge turnout for the public meeting in Raton in March clearly demonstrates, there is overwhelming public support for this route throughout Union and Colfax Counties in New Mexico. There is also very strong support in neighboring Las Animas and Pueblo Counties in Colorado, including tid cities of Trinidad and Pueblo.

In Texas, the state already plans to widen to four lanes its portion of the route between Dumas and the New Mexico state line. In New Mexico, the Citizens’ Highway Assessment Task Force identified this route between Clayton and Raton as a priority to upgrade to four lanes. The initial needs and purposes study for the project is currently listed in New Mexico’s five-year Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, STIP.

In addition to possible routes north of Amarillo, TX, I should also note that the feasibility study considered a variety of alternative routes south of Amarillo, on down to Laredo. However, Congress already indicated its preferred southern leg in the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2001, though the Congressional designation of the southern route was enacted long before we had the results of the feasibility study. The Texas Transportation Commission is voting today to confirm Congress’ designation of the southern leg.

The studies have now been completed. The results are in. The route south of Amarillo has been set. Congress should now complete the designation of the final leg of the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor by passing our bill.

The time to act is now. Once the route is established the States can move forward with their regional and statewide transportation plans, environmental studies, design work, acquisition of rights of way, and initial construction of the most critical segments.

I thank Senator DOMENICI for cosponsoring the bill, and I hope all senators will join us in support of this important legislation. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the New Mexico State Highway Commission’s resolution and the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD. There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows.

S. 1118

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. IDENTIFICATION OF PORTS-TO-PLAINS HIGH PRIORITY CORRIDOR ROUTES IN NEW MEXICO AND COLORADO.

Section 1105(c)(38) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991