

terms of their visas as a result of a national disaster, such as Hurricane Katrina.

SEC. 5. CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness, shall propose new inspection guidelines that prohibit an inspector from entering into a contract with any individual or entity for whom the inspector performs an inspection for purposes of determining eligibility for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 28, 2006, at 10 a.m. in Room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to review the proposed fiscal year 2007 For-est Service budget.

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 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Frank Gladics (202-224-2878), Elizabeth Abrams (202-224-0537) or Sara Zecher (202-224-8276) of the Committee staff.

AUTHORITIES FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 15, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to consider the following nominations: Honorable Preston M. Geren to be Under Secretary of the Army; Honorable Michael L. Dominguez to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; Mr. James I. Finley to be Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology; and Mr. Thomas P. D'Agostino to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs, National Nuclear Security Administration.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. 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 February 15, 2006, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on "Rebuilding Needs in Katrina-Impacted Areas."

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, February 15, 2006, at 10 a.m., on Video Franchising.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, February 15, 2006, at 2:30 p.m., on Nanotechnology.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 15 at 10:30 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony regarding S. 2197 to improve the global competitiveness of the United States in science and energy technology, to strengthen basic research programs at the Department of Energy, and to provide support for mathematics and science education at all levels through the resources available through the Department of Energy, including at the national laboratories.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to hold a business meeting on February 15, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. to consider the following agenda:

Agenda

Nominations: Terrence L. Bracy—Nominee to a position on the Board of Trustees at the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Foundation and the following 6 to Members of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority: Dennis C. Bortorff, Robert M. Duncan, Susan Richardson Williams, William B. Sansom, Howard A. Thraillkill, and Donald R. DePriest.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to hold a hearing on February 15, 2006 at 9:35 a.m. to receive testimony on EPA's proposed Budget for FY 2007.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 15, 2006, at 9:45 a.m. to hold a hearing on the President's Budget for Foreign Affairs and a business meeting.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Wednesday, February 15, 2006, at 11:15 a.m. for a hearing titled, "Hurricane Katrina: The Homeland Security Department's Preparation and Response."

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Judicial Nominations" on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at 10 a.m. in the Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Witness

Panel I: Members of Congress, TBA.

Panel II: Stephen G. Larson to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California; Jack Zouhary to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio; and John F. Clark to be Director of the United States Marshals Service.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 15, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed briefing.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE SAFETY

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety, be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 15 at 10 a.m. in SD-430.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests be authorized to meet during the

session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 15 at 2:30 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to review the progress made on the development of interim and long-term plans for use of fire retardant aircraft in Federal wildfire suppression operations.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that floor privileges be granted, during the consideration of S. 2271, H.R. 3199, to Bob Schiff, Lara Flynt, Paul Weinberger, Mary Irvine, and Sumner Slichter.

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

STOP COUNTERFEITING IN MANUFACTURED GOODS ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 32 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 32) to amend title 18 United States Code, to provide criminal penalties for trafficking in counterfeit marks.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to speak about H.R. 32, the Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act of 2005, sponsored by Representative KNOLLENBERG and 59 House cosponsors. The counterfeiting of goods bearing American held trademarks is an important problem that I am committed to fighting, as reflected by my sponsoring S. 1699, the Senate companion bill to H.R. 32, earlier this year with Senator LEAHY and Senators ALEXANDER, BAYH, BROWNBACK, COBURN, CORNYN, DEWINE, DURBIN, FEINGOLD, FEINSTEIN, HATCH, KYL, LEVIN, REED, STABENOW, and VOINOVICH.

H.R. 32, the Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act of 2005 addresses a problem that has reached epidemic proportions as a result of a loophole in our criminal code: the trafficking in counterfeit labels. Criminal law currently prohibits the trafficking in counterfeit trademarks "on or in connection with goods or services." However, it does not prohibit the trafficking in the counterfeit marks themselves. As such, there is nothing in current law to prohibit an individual from selling counterfeit labels bearing otherwise protected trademarks within the United States.

This loophole was exposed by the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in *United States v. Giles*, 213 F.3d 1247 (10th

Cir. 2000). In this case, the United States prosecuted the defendant for manufacturing and selling counterfeit Dooney & Bourke labels that third parties could later affix to generic purses. Examining title 18, section 2320, of the United States Code, the Tenth Circuit held that persons who sell counterfeit trademarks that are not actually attached to any "goods or services" do not violate the Federal criminal trademark infringement statute. Since the defendant did not attach counterfeit marks to "goods or services," the court found that the defendant did not run afoul of the criminal statute as a matter of law. Thus, someone caught red-handed with counterfeit trademarks walked free.

H.R. 32 closes this loophole by amending title 18, section 2320 of the United States Code to criminally prohibit the trafficking, or attempt to traffic, in "labels, patches, stickers" and generally any item to which a counterfeit mark has been applied. In so doing, H.R. 32 provides U.S. Department of Justice prosecutors with the means not only to prosecute individuals trafficking in counterfeit goods or services, but also individuals trafficking in labels, patches, and the like that are later applied to goods.

Congress must act expeditiously to protect U.S. held trademarks to the fullest extent of the law. The recent 10-count indictment of four Massachusetts residents of conspiracy to traffic in approximately \$1.4 million of counterfeit luxury goods in the case of *U.S. v. Luong et al.*, 2005 D. Mass. underscores the need for this legislation. According to the indictment, law enforcement officers raided self-storage units earlier this year and found the units to hold approximately 12,231 counterfeit handbags; 7,651 counterfeit wallets; more than 17,000 generic handbags and wallets; and enough counterfeit labels and medallions to turn more than 50,000 generic handbags and wallets into counterfeits. Although the U.S. Attorney's Office was able to pursue charges of trafficking and attempting to traffic in counterfeit handbags and wallets, they were not able to bring charges for trafficking and attempting to traffic in the more than 50,000 counterfeit labels and medallions. As such, these defendants will escape prosecution that would have otherwise been illegal if they had only been attached to an otherwise generic bag. This simply does not make sense. Had the Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act of 2005 been in effect at the time of indictment, U.S. prosecutors would have been able to bring charges against the defendants for trafficking and attempting to traffic in not only counterfeit goods, but also counterfeit labels.

As Assistant Attorney General Alice Fisher said:

Those who manufacture and sell counterfeit goods steal business from honest mer-

chants, confuse or defraud honest consumers, and illegally profit on the backs of honest American workers and entrepreneurs.

This point is underscored by the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection estimate that trafficking in counterfeit goods costs the United States approximately \$200 to \$250 million annually. With each passing year, the United States loses millions of dollars in tax revenues to the sale of counterfeit goods. Further, each counterfeit item that is manufactured overseas and distributed in the United States costs American workers tens of thousands of jobs. With counterfeit goods making up a growing 5 to 7 percent of world trade, this is a problem that we can no longer ignore.

To be sure, counterfeiting is not limited to the popular designer goods that we have all seen sold on corners of just about every major metropolitan city in the United States. Counterfeiting has a devastating impact on a broad range of industries. In fact, for almost every legitimate product manufactured and sold within the United States, there is a parallel counterfeit product being sold for no more than half the price. These counterfeit products range from children's toys to clothing to Christmas tree lights. More frightening are the thousands of counterfeit automobile parts, batteries, and electrical equipment that are being manufactured and placed into the stream of commerce with each passing day. I am told that the level of sophistication in counterfeiting has reached the point that you can no longer distinguish between the real and the counterfeit good or label with the naked eye. However, just because these products look the same does not mean that they have the same quality characteristics. The counterfeit products are not subject to the same quality controls of legitimate products, resulting in items that are lower in quality and likely to fall apart. In fact, counterfeit products could potentially kill unsuspecting American consumers.

In addition to closing the "counterfeit label loophole," the Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act strengthens the criminal code and provides heightened penalties for those trafficking in counterfeit marks. Current law does not provide for the seizure and forfeiture of counterfeit trademarks, whether they are attached to goods or not. Therefore, many times such counterfeit goods are seized one day, only to be returned and sold to an unsuspecting public. To ensure that individuals engaging in the practice of trafficking in counterfeit marks cannot reopen their doors, H.R. 32 establishes procedures for the mandatory seizure, forfeiture, and destruction of counterfeit marks prior to a conviction. Further, it provides for procedures for the mandatory forfeiture and destruction of property derived from or