

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. JEFFORDS, from the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2432. A bill to support programs of grants to States to address the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 105-334).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of committee was submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary:

Timothy B. Dyk of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that he be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. MACK):

S. 2469. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make technical corrections to a map relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

S. 2470. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make technical corrections to a map relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. COVERDELL (for himself and Mr. TORRICELLI):

S. 2471. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a partial exclusion from gross income for dividends and interest received by individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. BURNS):

S. 2472. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to exempt the holder of a right-of-way on public lands granted, issued, or renewed for an electric energy generation, transmission, or distribution system from certain strict liability requirements otherwise imposed in connection with such a right-of-way; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BREAU:

S. 2473. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deduction for meal and entertainment expenses of small businesses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DASCHLE (for Mr. HOLLINGS):

S. 2474. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make corrections to certain maps relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. D'AMATO:

S. 2475. A bill to amend title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to protect the rights of participants and beneficiaries of terminated pension plans; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. 2476. A bill for the relief of Wei Jengsheng; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MURKOWSKI:

S. Res. 276. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should reimburse the American taxpayer for costs associated with the Independent Counsel's investigation of his relationship with Ms. Monica Lewinsky; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. INOUE (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BYRD, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. ROTH, Mr. FORD, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. Res. 277. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to the importance of diplomatic relations with the Pacific Island nations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. BURNS):

S. 2472. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to exempt the holder of a right-of-way on public lands granted, issued, or renewed for an electric energy generation, transmission, or distribution system from certain strict liability requirements otherwise imposed in connection with such a right-of-way; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY LEGISLATION

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined by Senators DASCHLE, SMITH of Oregon, BAUCUS, BURNS, JOHNSON, and CRAIG, in introducing legislation making an important adjustment to the way the Government manages rights-of-way over federal lands. The provisions in this bill address the situation involving liability standards for electric utilities that utilize federal rights-of-ways to provide electricity to rural communities.

I am pleased to be working on this issue with my good friends and colleagues from Oregon, BOB SMITH and PETER DEFAZIO. Chairman SMITH has introduced similar legislation in the House of Representatives, which received a hearing in the House Resources Committee earlier this year. During that hearing, one of my constituents, Mr. Bill Kopacz of Midstate Electric in LaPine, Oregon testified on the need to reform the current federal policy of requiring strict liability for fires that occur in right-of-ways.

Under strict liability, the holder of a right of way is responsible for all in-

jury, loss, or damage, including fire suppression costs, caused by the holder of the right of way without regard to the holder's negligence.

The problem that this legislation addresses is best illustrated by the experience of the Midstate Electric Cooperative of LaPine, Oregon.

As a matter of prudent maintenance, Midstate trims or removes trees on right-of-ways that pose a risk of falling onto electric lines. On federal rights-of-way, the cooperative consults with the appropriate land management agency—which of course must approve these management actions. After proposing the removal of a number of trees on a Forest Service right-of-way in 1984, Midstate was told by the agency that it could cut some down, but had to leave other specified trees standing. Of course the predictable happened—one of the trees that Midstate had proposed cutting, which the Forest Service had refused to allow to be removed, fell into a power line and started a fire.

In the end it cost more than \$326,850 to put that fire out—and Midstate Electric got the bill. Since the fire resulted from a management decision of the Forest Service, Midstate went to court in an attempt to appropriately assign the financial liability of fighting the fire. Midstate lost the court action because of a ruling which interpreted right-of-way contracts as holding the co-op and other right-of-way lessees to a strict liability standard.

The 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act provided federal agencies with the authority to impose strict liability for costs associated with hazards on federal lands. Prior to 1976, agencies recovered costs associated with hazards, such as costs required to put out a fire, on the basis of normal negligence.

This bill would replace that strict liability standard in favor of a normal negligence standard that is routinely used in private right-of-way contracts. The new standard will say: if you caused it, you are responsible for it. Rural electric cooperatives, investor-owned utilities and municipalities are not looking to pass the buck to the American taxpayer. If they are negligent in maintaining federal rights-of-way, they should bear the responsibility. However, by enforcing any standard more rigid than that, the land management agencies are purposefully transferring cost to private citizens.

The minimum impact of the current strict liability policy is higher electric rates for those rural communities who live in close proximity to public lands. The possibility exists, however, of even more punitive impacts in the form of the loss of insurance coverage for entities with federal rights-of-way liability.

In my judgement, this legislation restores an appropriate balance to the shared responsibility of both the land manager and the utility in reducing the natural hazards along a right of

way. As we saw in the Midstate case, because the Forest Service bears no exposure to costs associated with fire and risk prevention, the Forest Service simply did not allow the full use of measures to reduce those risks.

This legislation will not only benefit the state of Oregon. Utilities all through the United States have rights-of-way permits with our land management agencies. This proposal is of interest in states such as California, Idaho, Florida, Minnesota, Montana, Wyoming and Pennsylvania. I believe my proposal is fair and balanced legislation that protects our rural communities. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the Administration to perfect this legislation in the waning days of the 105th Congress.●

By Mr. BREAUX:

S. 2473. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deduction for meal and entertainment expenses of small businesses; to the Committee on Finance.

TAX LEGISLATION

Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, today I introduce a very important bill for small businesses and the self-employed in Louisiana and throughout our country. My bill would restore the 80 percent deduction for business meals and entertainment expenses, thus eliminating a tax burden that has seriously hampered many small businesses in our country.

Small business is a powerful economic engine, both nationwide and in Louisiana. Small businesses have helped to create the prosperity that we have all enjoyed in the last few years. They are leaders in the innovation and technology development that will sustain our economy in the 21st century. Nationwide, small business employs 53 percent of the private work force, contributes 47 percent of all sales in the country, and is responsible for 50 percent of the private gross domestic product.

For these reasons, I believe the tax code should encourage, not discourage, small business development and growth. For the more than 225,000 self-employed and for the thousands of small businesses in Louisiana, business meals and entertainment take the place of advertising, marketing, and conference meetings. These expenses are a core business development cost. As such, a large percentage of these costs should be deductible.

For many years, businesses were allowed to deduct 100 percent of business meals and entertainment expenses. In 1987, this deduction was reduced to 80 percent. The deduction was further reduced in 1994 to 50 percent because of the misconception that these meals were "three martini lunches."

Contrary to this perception, studies show that the primary beneficiary of the business meal deduction is not the wealthy business person. Studies indicate that over two-thirds of the business meal spenders have incomes of

less than \$60,000 and 37 percent have incomes below \$40,000. Low to moderately priced restaurants are the most popular types for business meals, with the average check equaling less than \$20. In addition, 50 percent of most business meals occur in small towns and rural areas.

In 1995, just one year after the deduction was reduced to 50 percent, the White House Conference on Small Business established the restoration of the deduction as one of its top priorities for boosting small business. In Louisiana alone, it is expected that the positive economic impact of this proposal could exceed \$67 million in industries, such as the travel and restaurant industry, that employ over 120,000 people. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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. 2473

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

SECTION 1. SMALL BUSINESSES ALLOWED INCREASED DEDUCTION FOR MEAL AND ENTERTAINMENT EXPENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (n) of section 274 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to only 50 percent of meal and entertainment expenses allowed as deduction) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any taxpayer which is a small business, paragraph (1) shall be applied by substituting 'the applicable percentage (as defined in paragraph (3)(B))' for '50 percent'.

"(B) SMALL BUSINESS.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'small business' means, with respect to expenses paid or incurred during any taxable year—

"(i) any corporation which meets the requirements of section 55(e)(1) for such year, and

"(ii) any partnership or sole proprietorship which would meet such requirements if it were a corporation."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 1998.

By Mr. D'AMATO:

S. 2475. A bill to amend title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to protect the rights of participants and beneficiaries of terminated pension plans; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

PENSION PLAN PARTICIPANT PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

● Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to strengthen protections to retirees who, through no fault of their own, find themselves without a job or the pension they worked hard for because their company went under.

This situation happened in 1991 when Pan Am World Airways went out of business leaving 45,000 employees—15,000 of which reside in New York State—jobless and without their prom-

ised pensions. For the last seven years these hardworking Americans have fought a losing battle with the Pension Benefits Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) to get a fair benefit calculation and appeals process. In addition to former Pan Am employees, this issue affects hundreds of thousands of former employees of companies whose pension plans have been taken over by the PBGC.

Our senior citizens are a valuable resource to this country. Many of them are entitled to receive private pensions as a result of their loyal years of service to their employers. In 1974, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) was enacted to provide certain basic protections to retirees regarding their pensions.

In general, private employers are required to act as fiduciaries with respect to most of their activities in connection with their pension plans. Those fiduciaries are prohibited from commingling plan assets, must provide regular disclosure concerning plan assets and are required to act "solely in the interest" of the participants. Participants may bring suit, in Federal Court, if required information is not provided within 30 days of request. A participant may seek a determination of the amount of his or her benefit, in Federal Court, if the plan fails or refuses to render a determination as to the amount of benefit the participant is entitled to receive under the plan.

ERISA also created a Federal agency, the PBGC, to pay benefits to participants in pension plans who are unable to pay such benefits. PBGC functions as an insurer, collecting premiums from solvent plans and paying benefits to participants in failed plans. Since the enactment of ERISA, the PBGC has become the Trustee of plans involving more than one million participants.

While the PBGC does an admirable job with respect to its obligations to continue payments to participants in terminated plans, those participants do not enjoy the same legal protections guaranteed to all plan participants under ERISA. In general, PBGC performs its functions as a government agency and not as a fiduciary.

Mr. President, in plans trusted by the PBGC, participants have no right to disclosure regarding the amount of their benefits and may not appeal an adverse determination until an appealable decision is rendered—which in many cases does not occur for more than ten years. Once issued, the PBGC decisions must be appealed within 45 days or a participant may lose all rights. If a determination is appealed, participants must follow a complicated and time consuming appeals process. Many of our senior citizens are confused and overwhelmed by this process and as a result, inadvertently surrender many valuable legal rights.

In addition, under current law, the PBGC is permitted to commingle funds from all of the retirement plans that it terminates and may use those retirement funds to pay for expenses of other

plans as well as its general overhead expenses.

At a minimum, our senior citizens, in plans trusted by the PBGC, need and deserve the same protections accorded to every other participant in a plan covered by ERISA. This bill restores some of those protections and requires that the PBGC issue an appealable decision within one year of the date the PBGC becomes the Trustee of a plan. The bill provides for the establishment of participants' committees to represent the interests of the participants and permits such committee to serve as Trustee of the terminated plan. Where more than one group seeks appointment as Trustee the federal courts would be required to select the Trustee that would best serve the interests of the participants.

My bill also establishes a participant advocates office to assist participants with explanations, benefits disputes and, if necessary, to appeal adverse determinations by the PBGC. In addition, the bill clarifies existing law, empowering the federal courts to remove a Trustee in the event the Trustee commits any breach of its fiduciary duty.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent 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. 2475

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Pension Plan Participant Protection Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. DUTIES OF THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION WHILE SERVING AS TRUSTEE OF TERMINATED PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4042(d)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1342(d)(3)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(A)" after "(3)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

"(B) The corporation is subject to the same requirements of reporting and disclosure in connection with a pension plan for which the corporation is serving as trustee pursuant to this section as those of any plan administrator of an employee pension benefit plan under part 1 of subtitle B of title I.

"(C) The corporation is subject to the same fiduciary duties in connection with a pension plan for which the corporation is serving as trustee pursuant to this section, including the determination and payment of plan benefits, as those of any fiduciary of an employee pension benefit plan under part 1 of subtitle B of title I. The corporation shall maintain such separate books and records and retain such separate counsel on its behalf as may be necessary for carrying out such duties.

"(D) For purposes of applying part 5 of subtitle B of title I in the enforcement of subparagraphs (B) and (C)—

"(i) any civil monetary penalty which may be assessed by the Secretary of Labor against the corporation under any provision of section 502(c) shall be assessed in the full amount specified in such provision,

"(ii) a civil action against the corporation as fiduciary under section 502(a)(2) for relief under section 409 may be brought by any affected party, and, in any such action by an

affected party in which the corporation is removed as trustee, the replacement trustee shall be selected by the court from any list of qualified candidates which may be provided by such affected party, and

"(iii) any review under section 502 by a district court of the United States of a benefit determination by the corporation shall be de novo.

"(E) In any case in which the corporation serves as trustee for a terminated pension plan pursuant to this section, the corporation shall issue its final determination regarding any benefit payable under the plan not later than one year after the date of the corporation's appointment as trustee. Any failure by the corporation to comply with the requirements of this subparagraph shall be deemed an action of the corporation upon which a cause of action may be brought against the corporation under section 4003(f)(1)."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 4023 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1323) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(a)" after "SEC. 4023."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to the corporation while the corporation is serving in its fiduciary capacity in accordance with section 4042(d)(3)(B)."

SEC. 3. PARTICIPANTS' COMMITTEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amended by inserting after section 4048 (29 U.S.C. 1348) the following new section:

"PARTICIPANTS' COMMITTEES

"SEC. 4049. (a) IN GENERAL.—

"(1) APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), as soon as practicable after the appointment of a trustee under section 4042, the trustee shall appoint a committee of participants under the plan.

"(2) REQUESTS FOR ADEQUATE REPRESENTATION.—On request of an affected party, the court may order the appointment of additional committees of participants if necessary to assure adequate representation of participants. The trustee shall appoint any such committee.

"(3) SMALL BUSINESSES.—On request of an affected party in a case in which the plan sponsor is a small business and for cause, the court may order that a committee of participants not be appointed.

"(b) MEMBERSHIP.—A committee of participants appointed under subsection (a) shall ordinarily consist of the persons, willing to serve, that were in pay status under the plan as of the date of the termination of the plan and have the seven largest nonforfeitable benefits under the plan, or of the members of a committee organized by participants before such date, if such committee was fairly chosen and is representative of the participants of the plan.

"(c) POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES.—

"(1) APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEYS, ACCOUNTANTS, ETC.—At a scheduled meeting of a committee appointed under subsection (a), at which a majority of the members of such committee are present, and with the court's approval, such committee may select and authorize the employment by such committee of one or more attorneys, accountants, or other agents to represent or perform services for such committee.

"(2) PRECLUSION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—An attorney or accountant employed to represent a committee appointed under subsection (a) may not, while employed by such committee, represent any other entity having an adverse interest in connection with the case. Representation of one or more participants of the same class as represented

by the committee shall not per se constitute the representation of an adverse interest.

"(3) SPECIFIC POWERS.—A committee appointed under subsection (a) may—

"(A) consult with the trustee concerning the administration of the case,

"(B) investigate the acts, conduct, assets, liabilities, and financial condition of the plan, the operation of the plan sponsor's financial operations, and the desirability of the continuance of the plan, and any other matter relevant to the case,

"(C) participate in the formulation of the plan for distribution of plan assets, advise those represented by such committee of such committee's determinations as to any plan for distribution of the plan's assets, and collect and file with the court acceptances or rejections of the plan for distribution of plan assets,

"(D) request the court for the appointment of the committee or any other person as an alternative trustee, and

"(E) perform such other services as are in the interest of plan participants and beneficiaries.

"(4) MEETING WITH TRUSTEE.—As soon as practicable after the appointment of a committee under subsection (a), the trustee shall meet with such committee to transact such business as may be necessary and proper."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1 of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4048 the following new item:

"Sec. 4049. Participants' committees."

SEC. 4. TRUSTEESHIP OF TERMINATED PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4042(c) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1342(c)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(1)" after "(c)"; and

(2) by inserting before paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

"(2) The court may appoint the corporation, a participants' committee, or any other person to serve as trustee under paragraph (1). Upon the application of any two or more of the foregoing to serve as trustee, the determination of the court of which to appoint shall be based on its determination of which applicant is most qualified to carry out the fiduciary duties of the trustee with respect to participants and beneficiaries without conflicts of interest."

(b) PAYMENT OR REIMBURSEMENT OF REASONABLE FEES AND EXPENSES.—Section 4042(h) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1342(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(3) The reasonable fees and expenses of a trustee appointed under this section (other than the corporation), of any participants' committee, and of any counsel, accountants, actuaries, and other professional service personnel shall be paid, directly or by means of reimbursement, from the assets of the terminated plan."

SEC. 5. PARTICIPANT'S ADVOCATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title IV of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amended by adding after section 4071 (29 U.S.C. 1371) the following new section:

"OFFICE OF PARTICIPANT'S ADVOCATE

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor shall establish in the Department of Labor an Office of Participant's Advocate, to be headed by a Participant's Advocate.

"(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Participant's Advocate shall, upon request of participants of terminated pension plans—

"(1) counsel participants and beneficiaries of such plans in connection with their rights to benefits thereunder, and

"(2) provide legal representation before the corporation and in court to such participants

who have been denied benefits by the corporation.

"(b) FEES.—The Office shall require only such fees for its services as may be prescribed in regulations of the Secretary of Labor.

"(c) STAFF.—The Participant's Advocate shall appoint such attorneys, actuaries, and accountants as may be necessary to assist the Participant's Advocate in carrying out the functions of the Office, and may appoint such additional personnel as may be necessary to provide adequate support for the Office.

"(d) NOTICE.—Each notice of a benefit termination issued by the corporation to a participant or beneficiary under a terminated pension plan shall include a notice (in such form as shall be prescribed in regulations of the Secretary of Labor) describing the services of the Participant's Advocate's Office."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1 of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 4071 the following new item:

"Sec. 4071. Office of Participant's Advocate."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Secretary of Labor shall establish the Office of Participant's Advocate pursuant to the amendments made by this section not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. RULES GOVERNING TRUSTEESHIP BY THE CORPORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4042 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(i) In any case in which the corporation serves as trustee of a terminated pension plan under this section—

"(1) the corporation shall segregate assets of the terminated plan from the assets of any other plan or any other assets held by the corporation,

"(2) the corporation may not use any assets of the plan for any purpose other than payment of benefits or reasonable administrative expenses directly attributable to the termination and administration of the plan, excluding any generally applicable overhead expenses of the corporation, and

"(3) the corporation shall obtain the services of independent contractors in connection with the termination or administration of the plan only through a competitive bidding process."

SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to plan terminations—

(1) the termination date for which occurs on or after January 1, 1990, and

(2) for which the final distribution of assets occurs on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.●

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. 2476. A bill for the relief of Wei Jengsheng; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

WEI JENGSHENG FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE ACT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today I seek my colleagues' support for the Wei Jengsheng Freedom of Conscience Act. This bill will grant lawful permanent residence to writer and philosopher Wei Jengsheng, one of the most heroic individuals the international human rights community has known.

For years, Mr. President, Wei has stood up to an oppressive Chinese gov-

ernment, calling for freedom and democracy through speeches, writings, and as a prominent participant in the Democracy Wall movement. His dedication to the principles we hold dear, and on which our nation was founded, brought him 15 years of torture and imprisonment at the hands of the Chinese communist regime. Seriously ill, Wei was released only after great international public outcry. Now essentially exiled, he lives in the United States on a temporary visa and cannot return to China without facing further imprisonment.

Mr. President, granting Wei permanent residence will show that America stands by those who are willing to stand up for the principles we cherish. It also will help Wei in his continuing fight for freedom and democracy in China.

I would like to thank Senators HATCH, DEWINE, HUTCHINSON, and BROWNBACK for cosponsoring this bill. I should note also that this legislation has been endorsed by important human rights groups such as Laogai Research Foundation and Human Rights in China.

I urge my colleagues to send a strong signal about America's commitment to human rights, human freedom, and the dignity of the individual by passing this bill to grant Wei Jengsheng lawful permanent residence in the United States.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1251

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1251, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount of private activity bonds which may be issued in each State, and to index such amount for inflation.

S. 1252

At the request of Mr. D'AMATO, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1252, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the amount of low-income housing credits which may be allocated in each State, and to index such amount for inflation.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1862, a bill to provide assistance for poison prevention and to stabilize the funding of regional poison control centers.

S. 2098

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2098, a bill to preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands and acquired lands owned by the United States, and to preserve State sovereignty and private property rights in non-Federal lands surroundings those public lands and acquired lands.

S. 2141

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2141, a bill to require certain notices in any mailing using a game of chance for the promotion of a product or service, and for other purposes.

S. 2180

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2180, a bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to clarify liability under that Act for certain recycling transactions.

S. 2233

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 2233, a bill to amend section 29 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the placed in service date for biomass and coal facilities.

S. 2295

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2295, a bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to extend the authorizations of appropriations for that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2352

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2352, A bill to protect the privacy rights of patients.

S. 2364

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2364, a bill to reauthorize and make reforms to programs authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965.

S. 2390

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) were added as cosponsors of S. 2390, a bill to permit ships built in foreign countries to engage in coastwise in the transport of certain products.

S. 2432

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. FAIRCLOTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2432, A bill to support programs of grants to States to address the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. FORD, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2432, supra.

S. 2460

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S.