

1980, Congress provided that the first condition be broadened to allow the property to be used for any public purpose. Today, I seek to complete the transfer process through legislation that would effectively eliminate the conditions attached to the conveyance.

Mr. President, the property is no longer needed for its former purposes, and my bill would set in motion a chain of events that would allow for new uses that would benefit not only the City of Augusta and the State of Maine but our entire country. With the exception of the Kennebec Arsenal, virtually all of the great arsenals of the nineteenth century have been demolished or so completely altered that their original appearance has been lost. The new uses contemplated by Maine would raise money needed for repairs that would maintain what historic preservation experts have described as the most perfectly intact of the nineteenth century arsenals.

To be more specific, the State of Maine and City of Augusta plan to form a nonprofit corporation to oversee the property. That corporation would seek out private parties interested in using the land and buildings for such purposes as a marina, a museum, and a restaurant. Those parties would provide the capital for infrastructure development that would likely include sidewalks, streets, water, sewer and other utility service, and landscaping. In addition, the Arsenal's retaining wall needs repair, and a marina cannot be established without substantial dredging of the river.

The objective of my bill is to open the way for these improvements and new uses by eliminating any reversionary interests of the United States. The existence of such interests is a barrier to the private sector making the long-term commitments required to fund the improvements. In other words, Maine needs clear title for this plan to go forward.

Mr. President, the Kennebec Arsenal occupies an important place in the history of Maine and the nation. It was established in 1827 to deal with the threat of invasion from Great Britain, either from across the sea or from Canada to the north. The possibility of such an invasion was seen as a major threat to American security during the first half of the nineteenth century.

Much of the tension with the British stemmed from our disputed border with Canada, and in the late 1830's that dispute nearly blossomed into a full-scale war. While the so-called bloodless Aroostook War proved to be more talk than action, it caused a flurry of activity at the Kennebec Arsenal, with newly fabricated munitions sent there in anticipation of full-scale fighting. Fortunately, cooler heads and the arrival of the spring planting season brought the parties to the negotiating table.

During the Mexican War, rockets and fixed ammunition were manufactured at the Arsenal and shipped to the front.

During the Civil War, the post became an important depot of military stores. Indeed, a fear that Confederate guerrillas based in Canada would seek to burn the Arsenal led to the stationing of extra guards there, but despite the approach late one dark night of an unidentified boat, nothing came of this concern. During the latter half of the century, the Arsenal's importance declined, and in 1901, the Army posted an order for its abandonment. That process culminated in the legislation signed by President Theodore Roosevelt providing for the transfer of the property to the State for use as a hospital to serve the mentally ill.

Mr. President, I have offered this greatly abbreviated history of the Kennebec Arsenal to demonstrate the value of finding uses for the property that will guarantee its permanent preservation. That is the goal of the State of Maine and the City of Augusta, and this legislation will remove an anachronistic obstacle to the realization of that goal.

I thank you, Mr. President, and I hope to have your support for this very important legislation when it comes before the Committee on Armed Services.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1286

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. FAIRCLOTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1286, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain amounts received as scholarships by an individual under the National Health Corps Scholarship Program.

S. 1360

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1360, a bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to clarify and improve the requirements for the development of an automated entry-exit control system, to enhance land border control and enforcement, and for other purposes.

S. 1649

At the request of Mr. FORD, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1649, a bill to exempt disabled individuals from being required to enroll with a managed care entity under the medicaid program.

S. 1724

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1724, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the information reporting requirement relating to the Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning Credits imposed on educational institutions and certain other trades and businesses.

S. 1930

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the name of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. BURNS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1930, a bill to provide certainty for, reduce administrative and compliance burdens associated with, and streamline and improve the collection of royalties from Federal and outer continental shelf oil and gas leases, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 188

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 188, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding Israeli membership in a United Nations regional group.

SENATE RESOLUTION 201

At the request of Mr. KEMPTHORNE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 201, a resolution to commemorate and acknowledge the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives while serving as law enforcement officers.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 91—RELATIVE TO A POSTAGE STAMP

Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. ROBB, and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Governmental Affairs:

S. CON. RES. 91

Whereas 1999 marks the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington;

Whereas George Washington's extraordinary virtue commanded the respect of America's early leaders, who called on him to preside over the framing of the Constitution;

Whereas George Washington was an indispensable figure in the founding of our Nation, and served as our country's first commander in chief and President with unparalleled distinction;

Whereas all Americans remain indebted to George Washington for the liberties we enjoy today;

Whereas the death of George Washington on December 14, 1799, marked the first instance of national mourning in this country;

Whereas George Washington's tremendous accomplishments over the course of a remarkable lifetime are studied and admired in this Nation and around the world; and

Whereas issuing a postage stamp to honor the life and contributions of George Washington, "The Father of Our Country", is proper and fitting: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring). That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) a postage stamp should be issued by the United States Postal Service to commemorate the life of George Washington and his contributions to the Nation; and

(2) the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a postage stamp be issued.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to submit legislation to honor one of the greatest men in American history. Many of my esteemed colleagues have joined me in a resolution paying tribute to the life of George Washington. However, I believe the

year 1999, the bicentennial of Washington's death, may be further consecrated. Therefore, I am introducing a Sense of the Senate Resolution calling upon the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee to issue a stamp which celebrates the leadership and courage possessed by Washington.

The life of this great patriot is an extraordinary parable of nationalism and a belief in the power of a republican form of government. Upon emerging victorious in the Revolutionary War, General Washington laid aside the instruments of destruction to craft a young nation. Discarding any intimations of personal glory, Washington spurned the title of Monarch and instead chose to model the new country on the ancient principles of democracy. He was truly a "First among Equals". Washington was very much aware of the momentous nature of the first presidential term for our emerging democracy. He wrote,

I walk on untrodden ground. There is scarcely any part of my conduct which may not hereafter be drawn into precedent.

We must, as a Nation, recognize the value of responsibility. Washington shouldered the responsibility of his two terms in office with grace and dignity, ever aware that he would be an example for countries around the world for time eternal. Through a heightened cognizance of the actions and beliefs of Washington, we can convey the true meaning of service to our Nation. I ask my colleagues what better way to honor such a man, than to devote a year to honoring his life. In this pursuit, it is fitting to request that a George Washington stamp be issued in 1999. Let us reflect upon the tradition of character of our Nation, inaugurated by our first President. Washington will remain, "First in War, first in Peace, and first in the hearts of his Countrymen." I look forward to the swift passage of this legislation.

Mr. ROBB. Mr. President, I rise today to join the Senior Senator from Virginia, Mr. WARNER, in submitting a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee examine issuing a stamp to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the death of our first President, George Washington.

I hardly need to expound on the legacy George Washington has provided our nation—his courageous leadership through the Revolutionary War, his vision as our first President, and his personal example as a citizen.

I recently joined Senator WARNER and Senator GRAHAM in introducing a resolution, S. Con. Res. 83, calling on the country to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Washington's death with ceremonies and activities that explore the life and legacy of George Washington. Given the formative influence of this distinguished man on our nation, I also believe it is appropriate to ask the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to authorize a stamp in honor of the historic anniversary of

President Washington's passing. I encourage all of my colleagues to become cosponsors of this resolution so that we can send a clear message to the Committee and our fellow citizens about the importance we place upon President Washington's legacy.

SENATE RESOLUTION 216—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING JAPAN'S DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CONDITION

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 216

Whereas the United States and Japan share common goals of peace, stability, democracy, and economic prosperity in the Asia-Pacific Region;

Whereas the current economic crisis in the Asia-Pacific Region represents a new challenge to United States-Japan cooperation to achieve these common goals;

Whereas the Japanese economy, the second largest in the world, has been growing a little over 1 percent annually since 1991 and most forecasts suggest that Japan is unlikely to experience any significant growth in the near future;

Whereas Japan's is the second largest trading partner of the United States and accounts for 11 percent of our total foreign trade;

Whereas Japan accounts for over 70 percent of the Asia-Pacific Region's gross domestic product and therefore has a particular interest in the stability of the Region's economic and financial system;

Whereas a strong United States-Japan alliance is critical to American forward engagement and stability in the Asia-Pacific Region;

Whereas the importance of the United States-Japan alliance was reaffirmed by the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Japan in the April 1996 Joint Security Declaration;

Whereas United States-Japan bilateral military cooperation was enhanced with the revision of the United States-Japan Guidelines for Defense Cooperation in 1997;

Whereas Japan's failure to contribute to the Region's recovery from the current economic crisis or failure to prevent a further contraction of the Japanese economy could undermine regional stability, cause a setback in the close United States-Japan bilateral security cooperation achieved over the past 3 years, and increase Japan's bilateral and global trade surplus;

Whereas the low level of foreign direct investment in Japan, at less than 1 percent of Japan's gross domestic product compared to foreign direct investment in the United States of over 8 percent of the United States gross domestic product, contributes to large external trade imbalances and impedes market access for competitive foreign firms and products;

Whereas the United States bilateral trade deficit with Japan increased from \$48,000,000,000 in 1996 to \$56,000,000,000 in 1997 and has recently increased from \$4,000,000,000 in January of 1998 to \$5,300,000,000 in February of 1998;

Whereas the recent weakness in the yen, following a more than 20 percent depreciation of the yen against the dollar over the last few years, has placed competitive price

pressures on United States industries and workers;

Whereas a period of deflation in Japan would lead to lower demand for United States products;

Whereas the estimated \$574,000,000,000 of problem loans in Japan's banking sector has the potential to threaten the recovery of the Asia-Pacific Region and could destabilize global capital markets;

Whereas the unnecessary and burdensome regulation of the Japanese market constrains Japanese economic growth, raises the costs to business and consumers, lowers the standard of living, and impedes imports;

Whereas the United States strongly encourages Japan to pursue a domestic demand-led economic recovery and thereby prevent further increases in Japan's external trade surplus;

Whereas the Japanese Government has responded to the Asia-Pacific Region's economic crisis with financial commitments of approximately \$19,000,000,000 to the International Monetary Fund; and

Whereas the United States appreciates Japan's efforts to stimulate its economy with the recently announced package of 16,000,000,000,000 yen that includes 4,500,000,000,000 yen in tax cuts and 11,500,000,000,000 yen in government spending: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the American people and the countries in the Asia-Pacific Region are looking for a demonstration of Japanese leadership and close United States-Japan cooperation in resolving the current crisis;

(2) encouraging the strengthening of the Japanese economy should be one of the Administration's central priorities in all its bilateral and multilateral discussions with Japan;

(3) every effort possible should be made to ensure that all other negotiating objectives are consistent with the overall goal of promoting economic growth in Japan, improving market access to Japan, and restoring stability to international financial markets;

(4) the President should continue to voice his serious concern about the economic situation in Japan, the international, regional, and bilateral implications of the situation, and the need to address significant structural impediments to competition in the Japanese markets, in order to restore confidence in the Japanese economy and contribute to the Asia-Pacific Region's political stability and economic recovery;

(5) the President, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the United States Trade Representative should emphasize the importance of financial deregulation, including banking reform, market deregulation, and restructuring bad bank debt;

(6) the President, the Secretary of the Treasury, the United States Trade Representative, and the Secretary of Commerce should press vigorously for comprehensive and urgent deregulation and fundamental structural reform of the Japanese economy and sectoral markets, liberalization of the distribution system, and elimination of non-tariff barriers and anticompetitive business practices that restrict the free flow of competitive goods and services, in order to increase market efficiencies and enhance competition, lower prices, improve market access, and redress global trade imbalances;

(7) the President, the United States Trade Representative, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Attorney General should continue to press for—

(A) increased antitrust enforcement by the Japan Fair Trade Commission, and