

“(c) URANIUM MILL AND MINE REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2000, the Secretary of Health and Human Services in consultation with the Secretary of Energy shall prepare and submit to Congress a report that—

“(1) summarizes medical knowledge concerning adverse health effects sustained by residents of communities who reside adjacent to—

“(A) uranium mills or mill tailings,

“(B) aboveground uranium mines, or

“(C) open pit uranium mines; and

“(2) summarizes available information concerning the availability and accessibility of medical care that incorporates the best available standards of practice for individuals with malignancies and other compensable diseases relating to exposure to uranium as a result of uranium mining and milling activities;

“(3) summarizes the reclamation efforts with respect to uranium mines, mills, and mill tailings in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, and Utah; and

“(4) makes recommendations for further actions to ensure health and safety relating to the efforts referred to in paragraph (3).”.

By Mr. COVERDELL (for himself, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. LOTT, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. LUGAR, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 2344. A bill to amend the Agricultural Market Transition Act to provide for the advance payment, in full, of the fiscal year 1999 payments otherwise required under production flexibility contracts; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

#### THE EMERGENCY FARM FINANCIAL RELIEF ACT

• Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, the past several years have been devastating for a large number of Georgia farmers. Due to the large amounts of weather damage and associated agriculture production losses, numerous farmers and agribusinesses are faced with dire financial situations.

Farmers from across the state of Georgia are facing their worst crop disaster in many years. Currently, damages are estimated at about \$450 million and rising. The drought in Georgia has already lasted 3 months and has caused farmers water supplies to dry up, leaving many without a source of irrigation water. I understand fully that it is not only in my home state where farmers are suffering. It is occurring in many parts of the country.

To help alleviate farmers' financial difficulties, today I am proud to introduce legislation with my esteemed colleagues Majority Leader LOTT, Senator COCHRAN, Senator FAIRCLOTH, Senator SHELBY, Senator GRAMM, Senator LUGAR and Senator HUTCHISON, which will help provide American farmers with much needed financial relief. The bill—The Emergency Farm Financial Relief Act—would allow farmers the option of receiving all of the Agriculture Market Transition Act (AMTA) contract payments for FY 1999 immediately after the beginning of the fiscal year. Annual payments can now be made two times a year, in December or January and again in September. The legislation we introduce today is a Senate companion to House legislation in-

troduced by Representative BOB SMITH, Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

The bill would make \$5.5 billion available much earlier in order to help farmers cope with the cash shortages they are now experiencing due to low prices and poor production. This important initiative leaves the decision to accept early payments or not solely with the farmer. Since all of the 1999 AMTA payments occur within the same fiscal year, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has determined that this proposal would not cost any additional taxpayer funds.

While this legislation is not the only answer to helping farmers during their time of economic hardship, it is a much needed overtone which provides farmers with immediate financial relief. Certainly we have other measures to consider, but this is a good first step. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate on this proposal and urge its speedy consideration. •

• Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I rise as a co-sponsor of the Emergency Farm Financial Relief Act of 1998, which will permit farmers to receive their fiscal year 1999 Agriculture Market Transition Act (AMTA) payments at the start of the fiscal year in October of 1998 rather than the semi-annual payments in December of 1998 and September of 1999.

This bill thus readies some \$5.5 billion to help farmers cope with their current cash shortage that stems from high debts and low commodity prices.

This is a first to address the farm crisis, and it will help some farmers with their cash flow, but there are a lot of other growers in rough straits. Therefore, this is just a first step, and we need to take more aggressive steps to open export markets to American commodities.

This bill will not solve the farm crisis in North Carolina. In fact, because we managed to preserve the tobacco and peanut programs in the 1996 farm bill, the acceleration of AMTA contract payments will be limited, for the most part, to cotton, corn, and wheat growers.

The fields of North Carolina, Mr. President, are dry. All the farmers are in the same dire situation, and the scope of this bill is limited, but we need to address the tobacco growers.

I am concerned that efforts to bring the tobacco program to the Senate floor will get torn to shreds, but, certainly, the anti-tobacco crowd needs to rise above politics and realize that this is about farm families and family farms.

In addition to cash flow assistance, farmers need aggressive leadership to boost exports, and President Clinton needs to pay attention to farmers and to use the tools we gave him—like the Export Enhancement Program—to secure foreign markets for American agricultural commodities. Farmers just can't afford this continued silence from President Clinton. Agriculture is our

number one export, so, clearly, we need the White House to engage on this issue.

Thank you, Mr. President, and I urge my colleagues to join us in support of the Emergency Farm Financial Relief Act of 1998. •

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 263

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. KEMPTHORNE) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 263, a bill to prohibit the import, export, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, acquisition, and receipt of bear viscera or products that contain or claim to contain bear viscera, and for other purposes.

S. 981

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 981, a bill to provide for analysis of major rules.

S. 1321

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1321, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to permit grants for the national estuary program to be used for the development and implementation of a comprehensive conservation and management plan, to reauthorize appropriations to carry out the program, and for other purposes.

S. 1344

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1344, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to target assistance to support the economic and political independence of the countries of South Caucasus and Central Asia.

S. 1647

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1647, a bill to reauthorize and make reforms to programs authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965.

S. 1759

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1759, A bill to grant a Federal charter to the American GI Forum of the United States.

S. 1924

At the request of Mr. MACK, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1924, a bill to restore the standards used for determining whether technical workers are not employees as in effect before the Tax Reform Act of 1986.

S. 2049

At the request of Mr. KERREY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms.

MOSELEY-BRAUN) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2049, a bill to provide for payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs.

S. 2112

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2112, a bill to make the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 applicable to the United States Postal Service in the same manner as any other employer.

S. 2118

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2118, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on vaccines to 25 cents per dose.

S. 2145

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2145, a bill to modernize the requirements under the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 and to establish a balanced consensus process for the development, revision, and interpretation of Federal construction and safety standards for manufactured homes.

S. 2152

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2152, a bill to establish a program to provide credit and other assistance for encouraging microenterprises in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2154

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2154, a bill to promote research to identify and evaluate the health effects of silicone breast implants, and to ensure that women and their doctors receive accurate information about such implants.

S. 2181

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2181, a bill to amend section 3702 of title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the eligibility of former members of the Selected Reserve for veterans housing loans.

S. 2208

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2208, a bill to amend title IX of the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend the Agency for Healthcare Policy and Research.

S. 2216

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Washington

(Mr. GORTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2216, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make certain changes related to payments for graduate medical education under the medicare program.

S. 2217

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2217, a bill to provide for continuation of the Federal research investment in a fiscally sustainable way, and for other purposes.

S. 2291

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2291, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to prevent the misappropriation of collections of information.

S. 2295

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) 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. 2322

At the request of Mr. BREAU, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 2322, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to change the determination of the 50,000-barrel refinery limitation on oil depletion deduction from a daily basis to an annual average daily basis.

S. 2337

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. KEMPTHORNE), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. FAIRCLOTH), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2337, a bill to establish a system of registries of temporary agricultural workers to provide for a sufficient supply of such workers and to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to streamline procedures for the admission and extension of stay of nonimmigrant agricultural workers, and for other purposes.

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 80

At the request of Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 80, a concurrent resolution urging that the railroad industry, including rail labor, management and retiree organization, open discussions for adequately funding an amendment to the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 to modify the guaranteed minimum benefit for widows and widowers whose annuities are converted from a spouse to a widow or widower annuity.

## SENATE RESOLUTION 257—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT OCTOBER 15, 1998, SHOULD BE DESIGNATED AS "NATIONAL INHALANT ABUSE AWARENESS DAY"

Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. HELMS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. INOUE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 257

Whereas inhalant abuse is nearing epidemic proportions with over 20 percent of all students admitting to experimenting with inhalants by the time they graduate from high school and only 4 percent of parents suspecting their children of inhalant use;

Whereas according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, inhalant use ranks third behind use of alcohol and tobacco for all youths through the eighth grade;

Whereas the over 1,000 products that are being inhaled to get high are legal, inexpensive, and found in nearly every home and every corner market;

Whereas using inhalants even once can lead to kidney failure, brain damage, and even death;

Whereas inhalants are considered a gateway drug, one that leads to the use of harder, more deadly drugs; and

Whereas because inhalant use is difficult to detect, the products used are accessible and affordable, and abuse is so common, increased education of young people and their parents regarding the dangers of inhalants is an important step in our battle against drug abuse: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that October 15, 1998, should be designated as "National Inhalant Abuse Awareness Day", to be observed with appropriate activities; and

(2) the Senate requests that the President issue a proclamation designating October 15, 1998, as "National Inhalant Abuse Awareness Day".

• Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today with 12 of my colleagues, including our distinguished Majority and Minority Leaders, I submit an important resolution that affects the health and safety of all of our children. My resolution would designate October 15th, 1998 as National Inhalant Abuse Awareness Day.

What is inhalant abuse? Many of you may know it as "sniffing" addiction. At alarmingly high rates, today's young people are using common household products to get high. In my state of Alaska alone, 22% of the high school and 19% of middle school students admit to experimenting with inhalants. 21% of students nationally will have tried inhalants by the time they graduate from high school.

Inhalant abusers often start in elementary school, as young as 7 years old. In Alaska, there is even a report of a three year old using inhalants, having probably been taught to do so from an older sibling. Inhalant abusers are both male and female and cut across all socio-economic backgrounds. It is a national epidemic which affects all of our communities.