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WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 29, 1999.

## EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-3992. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "College Completion Challenge Grant Act of 1999"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3993. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation relative to the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3994. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the report of a determination authorizing the use in fiscal year 1999 of funds to support the United Nations Assistance Mission to East Timor; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3995. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Trade Act of 1974, the report of an extension of Presidential Determination 99-26 relative to the Republic of Belarus; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3996. A communication from the Chairman of the Board, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to schedules of compensation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3997. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interpretive Bulletin 99-1; Payroll Deduction Programs for Individual Retirement Accounts" (RIN1210-AA70), received June 23, 1999; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3998. A communication from the Acting Chair, Federal Subsistence Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska, Subparts A, B, C, and D, Redefinition to Include Waters Subject to Subsistence Priority; Correction" (RIN1018-AD68), received June 23, 1999; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3999. A communication from the Acting Chair, Federal Subsistence Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska,

Subpart C and D-1999-2000 Subsistence Taking of Fish and Wildlife Regulations" (RIN1018-AD69), received June 23, 1999; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

## PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-227. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado relative to federal highway taxes and demonstration projects; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

### SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 99-003

Whereas, Due to the dynamics of state size, population, and other factors such as federal land ownership and international borders, there is a need for donor states that pay more in federal highway taxes and fees than they receive from the federal government and for donee states that receive more moneys from the federal government than they pay in federal highway taxes and fees; and

Whereas, The existence of such donor and donee states supports the maintenance of a successful nationwide transportation system; and

Whereas, There should be a uniform measure when considering the donor and donee issue, and a ratio derived from the total amount of moneys a state receives divided by the total amount of moneys that the state collects in federal highway taxes and fees is a clear and understandable measure; and

Whereas, Demonstration projects are an ineffective use of federal highway taxes and fees; and

Whereas, All moneys residing in the federal highway trust fund should be returned to the states either for use on the national highway system or nationally uniform highway safety improvement programs or as block grants; and

Whereas, The state block grant program should allow states to make the final decisions that affect the funding of their local highway projects based on the statewide planning process; and

Whereas, Only a reasonable amount of the moneys collected from the federal highway taxes and fees should be retained by the United States Department of Transportation for safety and research purposes; and

Whereas, States with public land holdings should not be penalized for receiving transportation funding through federal land or national park transportation programs, and such funding should not be included in the states' allocation of moneys; and

Whereas, The evasion of federal highway taxes and fees further erodes the ability of the state and the federal government to maintain an efficient nationwide transportation system; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

(1) That, when considering issues related to donor and donee states, the federal government should adopt a ratio derived from the total amount of moneys a state receives in federal highway moneys divided by the total amount of moneys the state collects in federal highway taxes and fees; and

(2) That all demonstration projects should be eliminated; and

(3) That after federal moneys have been expended for the national highway system and safety improvements, a state block grant program should be established for the distribution of remaining federal moneys;

(4) That it is necessary to expand federal and state activities to combat the evasion of federal highway taxes and fees. Be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Memorial be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of Colorado's delegation of the United States Congress.

POM-228. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to a permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

### HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 56

Whereas, Over the past four decades, nuclear power has become a significant source for the nation's production of electricity, Michigan is among the majority of states that derive energy from nuclear plants; and

Whereas, Since the earliest days of nuclear power, the great dilemma associated with this technology is how to deal with the waste material that is produced. This high-level radioactive waste material demands exceptional care in all facets of its storage and disposal, including the transportation of this material; and

Whereas, In 1982, Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. This legislation requires the federal government, through the Department of Energy, to build a facility for the permanent storage of high-level nuclear waste. This act, which was amended in 1987, includes a specific timetable to identify a suitable location and to establish the waste facility. The costs for this undertaking are to be paid from a fee that is assessed on all nuclear energy produced; and

Whereas, In accordance with the federal act, customers of utilities operating nuclear plants in Michigan have contributed, directly and through accumulated interest, some \$700 million for the construction and operation of a federal waste facility; and

Whereas, There are serious concerns that the federal government is not complying with the timetables set forth in federal law. Every delay places our country at greater risk, because the large number of temporary sites at nuclear facilities across the country makes us vulnerable to potential problems. The Department of Energy, working with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, must not fail to meet its obligation as provided by law. There is too much at stake; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives,* That we urge the United States Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to fulfill their obligation to establish a permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the United States Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

Adopted by the House of Representatives, May 5, 1999.

POM-229. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Michigan relative to a permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 29

Whereas, Over the past four decades, nuclear power has become a significant source for the nation's production of electricity, Michigan is among the majority of states that derive energy from nuclear plants; and

Whereas, Since the earliest days of nuclear power, the great dilemma associated with this technology is how to deal with the waste material that is produced. This high-level radioactive waste material demands exceptional care in all facets of its storage and disposal, including the transportation of this material; and

Whereas, In 1982, Congress passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. This legislation requires the federal government, through the Department of Energy, to build a facility for the permanent storage of high-level nuclear waste. This act, which was amended in 1987, includes a specific timetable to identify a suitable location and to establish the waste facility. The costs for this undertaking are to be paid from a fee that is assessed on all nuclear energy produced; and

Whereas, In accordance with the federal act, customers of utilities operating nuclear plants in Michigan have contributed, directly and through accumulated interest, some \$700 million for the construction and operation of a federal waste facility; and

Whereas, There are serious concerns that the federal government is not complying with the timetables set forth in federal law. Every delay places our country at greater risk, because the large number of temporary sites at nuclear facilities across the country makes us vulnerable to potential problems. The Department of Energy, working with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, must not fail to meet its obligation as provided by law. There is too much at stake; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That we urge the United States Department of Energy and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to fulfill their obligation to establish a permanent repository for high-level nuclear waste; and be it further*

*Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the United States Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.*

Adopted by the House of Representatives, May 5, 1999.

Adopted by the Senate, May 20, 1999.

POM-230. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Montana relative to national forest road closure and obliteration; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

Whereas, there are 737 million acres of forested land covering approximately one-third of the United States, a nation that has created the largest legally protected wilderness system in the world, while at the same time sustaining a highly productive and efficient wood products industry; and

Whereas, the federal government owns approximately two-thirds of the land in western Montana and these lands are primarily administered by the U.S. Forest Service; and

Whereas, the management of federal lands has a direct impact on economic and recreational opportunities and the quality of life for thousands of Montana residents; and

Whereas, Congress has declared in the federal Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 that national forests are established and must be utilized for outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fishery purposes; and

Whereas, the national forest road system represents a significant capital infrastructure investment and a valuable existing for-

est asset for forest managers and the public, providing access for a multitude of recreational opportunities, for emergency response efforts, and for resource management, protection, and improvement activities; and

Whereas, the federal government continues to close roads to public access by motorized vehicles and, in early 1998, the forest service proposed and is now planning to implement an 18-month moratorium on all new road building in roadless areas pending a review of its road management policies; and

Whereas, one stated purpose of the moratorium is to close or obliterate existing roads, thus creating additional defacto roadless areas contrary to the interests of Montana's citizens; and

Whereas, the scheduled destruction of nearly 2,000 miles of roads in the 10 national forests in Montana can have significant environmental, economic, and cultural impacts upon the fabric of many Montana communities and its citizens; and

Whereas, 650 miles of forest system roads in the Flathead National Forest alone have been scheduled for obliteration and 200 miles have already been destroyed; and

Whereas, destruction or obliteration of existing forest system roads can cause short-term and long-term increased discharges of sediment to streams, adversely affecting certain sensitive or endangered fish species and resulting in further restrictions on other multiple-use activities. Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana:*

(1) That the 56th Montana Legislature opposes the current administration's policy on national forest road closure and obliteration and urges the immediate suspension of road closure and obliteration activities.

(2) That existing roads are a valuable and necessary capital investment in public lands that should not be lost or destroyed.

(3) That forest plans specifying multiple-use management for timber harvest, outdoor recreation, range, watershed, and fish and wildlife values should be given priority as the appropriate and necessary management guidance to the forest service. Be it further

*Resolved, That copies of this resolution be sent by the Secretary of State to the Montana Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the federal Department of Interior, the Secretary of the federal Department of Agriculture, the Director of the United States Forest Service, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the President and Vice President of the United States.*

#### 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. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. LEVIN):

S. 1297. A bill to make improvements in the independent counsel statute; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 1298. A bill to provide for professional liability insurance coverage for Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. ROBB, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. MACK):

S. 1299. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide corporate alter-

native minimum tax reform; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 1300. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to prevent the wearing away of an employee's accrued benefit under a defined plan by the adoption of a plan amendment reducing future accruals under the plan; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. STEVENS (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. DORGAN):

S. 1301. A bill to provide reasonable and non-discriminatory access to buildings owned or used by the Federal government for the provision of competitive telecommunications services by telecommunications carriers; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRAMS (for himself, Mr. DOMENICI, and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 1302. A bill to correct the DSH Allotments for Minnesota, New Mexico, and Wyoming under the medicare program for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. BREAU, Mr. GORTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. GRAMS, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1303. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify certain provisions relating to the treatment of forestry activities; to the Committee on Finance.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 1298. A bill to provide for professional liability insurance coverage for Federal employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

THE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES EQUITY ACT OF 1999

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Federal Employees Equity Act of 1999.

My legislation expands a provision included in the omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997 (P.L. 104-208) to allow federal agencies to contribute to the costs of professional liability insurance for their senior executives, managers and law enforcement officials. While this important benefit contained in the Omnibus Appropriation bill was indeed enacted, it has not been made available on as wide a basis to federal employees as we had hoped.

The Federal Employees Equity Act would ensure that federal agencies reimburse one-half the premiums for Professional Liability Insurance for employees covered by this bill. Federal managers, supervisors, and law enforcement officials should not have to fear the excessive costs of legal representation when unwarranted allegations are made against them for investigations of these allegations are conducted.

I was a strong supporter of the provision in 1996 because federal officials often found themselves to be the target of unfounded allegations of wrongdoing. Sometimes allegations were