

Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Optional Certification Streamlining Procedures for Light-Duty Vehicles, Light-Duty Trucks, and Heavy-Duty Engines for Original Equipment Manufacturers and for Aftermarket Conversion Manufacturers; Final Rule" (FRL # 6547-4), received March 1, 2000; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7854. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the 2000 "International Narcotics Control Strategy Report"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7855. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, Presidential Determination 2000-16 regarding certification of the 26 major illicit drug producing and transit countries; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 577. A bill to provide for injunctive relief in Federal district court to enforce State laws relating to the interstate transportation of intoxicating liquor.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROTH for the Committee on Finance.

Larry L. Levitan, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of five years. (New Position)

Steve H. Nickles, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of four years. (New Position)

Robert M. Tobias, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of five years. (New Position)

Karen Hastie Williams, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of three years. (New Position)

George L. Farr, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of four years. (New Position)

Charles L. Kolbe, of Iowa, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of three years. (New Position)

Nancy Killefer, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board for a term of five years. (New Position)

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed subject to the nominees' commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.)

By Mr. HATCH for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Julio M. Fuentes, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

James D. Whittemore, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Randolph D. Moss, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

(The above nominations were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 2138. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 11-Aminoundecanoic acid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself and Mr. ENZI):

S. 2139. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to exempt agricultural stormwater and silviculture operation discharges from the requirement for a permit under the pollutant discharge elimination system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. GRAMS:

S. 2140. A bill to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to establish within the Department of State an Under Secretary of State for Security; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWNBACK:

S. 2141. A bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Georgia; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 2142. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain bromine-containing compounds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 2143. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain fluoride compounds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 2144. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain fluorozirconium compounds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 2145. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain imaging chemicals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 2146. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide for temporary duty-free treatment for certain semi-manufactured forms of gold; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2147. A bill to amend section 313 of the Tariff Act of 1930 to allow duty drawback for grape juice concentrates made from Concord or Niagara grapes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself and Mr. THURMOND):

S. 2148. A bill to suspend through December 31, 2004, the duty on certain other single yarn of viscose rayon; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself and Mr. THURMOND):

S. 2149. A bill to suspend through December 31, 2004, the duty on certain other single yarn of viscose rayon; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself and Mr. THURMOND):

S. 2150. A bill to suspend through December 31, 2004, the duty on certain other single yarn of viscose rayon; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself and Mr. THURMOND):

S. 2151. A bill to suspend through December 31, 2004, the duty on high tenacity multiple (folded) or cabled yarn of viscose rayon; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself and Mr. THURMOND):

S. 2152. A bill to suspend through December 31, 2004, the duty on high tenacity single yarn of viscose rayon; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself and Mr. THURMOND):

S. 2153. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on cobalt boron; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself and Mr. THURMOND):

S. 2154. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on ferroboration; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself and Mr. THURMOND):

S. 2155. A bill to suspend through December 31, 2003, on metachlorobenzaldehyde, propiophenone, 4-bromo-2-fluoroacetanilide, and 2,6-dichlorotoluene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself and Mr. THURMOND):

S. 2156. A bill to suspend through December 31, 2003, the duty on textured rolled glass sheets; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself and Mr. THURMOND):

S. 2157. A bill to suspend through December 31, 2004, the duty on other yarn, multiple (folded) or cabled, of viscose rayon; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON, and Mr. GRAMS):

S. 2158. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to eliminate the duty on certain steam or other vapor generating boilers used in nuclear facilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 2159. A bill to provide flexibility when merited and accountability when warranted in the Nation's elementary schools and secondary schools, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide achievement-based college scholarships to students in failing schools or failing school districts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TORRICELLI:

S. 2160. A bill to require health plans to include infertility benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CONRAD, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. KERREY, Mr. GREGG, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mrs. HUTCHINSON):

S. 2161. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a 1 year moratorium on certain diesel fuel excise taxes and to require the Secretary of the Treasury to transfer amounts to the Highway Trust Fund to cover any shortfall; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. MURKOWSKI):

S. 2162. A bill to renew the authority of the Department of Energy to indemnify its contractors and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to indemnify its licensees for damages resulting from nuclear incidents; to amend the Department of Energy's authority to impose civil penalties on its nonprofit contractors; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GORTON:

S. 2163. A bill to provide for a study of the engineering feasibility of a water exchange

in lieu of electrification of the Chandler Pumping Plant at Prosser Diversion Dam, Washington; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2164. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain compound optical microscopes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 2165. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide for temporary duty-free treatment for certain semiconductor mold compounds; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2166. A bill to suspend until June 30, 2003, the duty on transformers for use in certain radiobroadcast receivers with compact disc players and capable of receiving signals on AM and FM frequencies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2167. A bill to suspend until June 30, 2003, the duty on transformers for use in certain radiobroadcast receivers capable of receiving signals on AM and FM frequencies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VOINOVICH:

S. 2168. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on certain methyl esters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VOINOVICH:

S. 2169. A bill to reduce temporarily the duty on certain methyl esters; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THOMPSON:

S. 2170. A bill to provide for the reliquidation of certain entries of printing cartridges; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THOMPSON:

S. 2171. A bill to reliquidate certain entries of N,N-dicyclohexyl-2-benzothiazole-sulfenamide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THOMPSON:

S. 2172. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on thionyl chloride; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THOMPSON:

S. 2173. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on PHBA (p-hydroxybenzoic acid); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THOMPSON:

S. 2174. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on THQ (Toluhydroquinone); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THOMPSON:

S. 2175. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 1-fluoro-2-nitro-benzene; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THOMPSON (for himself and Mr. FRIST):

S. 2176. A bill to reliquidate certain entries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THOMPSON:

S. 2177. A bill to extend the duty suspension on DMT; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG:

S. 2178. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require colleges and universities to disclose to students and their parents the incidents of fires in dormitories, and their plans to reduce fire safety hazards in dormitories, to require the United States Fire Administration to establish fire safety standards for dormitories, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. KYL):

S. 2179. A bill to provide for the term of office of the first person appointed to the position of under Secretary for Nuclear Security of the Department of Energy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ABRAHAM:

S. 2180. A bill to repeal the increase in the tax on social security benefits, to eliminate

the earnings test for individuals who have attained retirement age, and to gradually raise the age for required minimum distributions from pension plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. Res. 265. A resolution commending the Florida State University football team for winning the 1999 Division I-A collegiate football national championship; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. JEFFORDS, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. DODD):

S. Con. Res. 88. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress concerning drawdowns of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. DODD):

S. Con. Res. 89. A concurrent resolution to establish the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies for the inauguration of the President-elect and Vice President-elect of the United States on January 20, 2001; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. McCONNELL (for himself and Mr. DODD):

S. Con. Res. 90. A concurrent resolution to authorize the use of the rotunda of the Capitol by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies in connection with the proceedings and ceremonies conducted for the inauguration of the President-elect and the Vice President-elect of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GORTON, Mr. LOTT, Mr. HELMS, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SMITH OF OREGON, Mr. ROBB, and Mr. FITZGERALD):

S. Con. Res. 91. A concurrent resolution congratulating the Republic of Lithuania on the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of its independence from the rule of the former Soviet Union; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. CRAIG):

S. 2146. A bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide for temporary duty-free treatment for certain semi-manufactured forms of gold; to the Committee on Finance.

LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE HARMONIZED TARIFF SCHEDULE OF THE UNITED STATES TO PROVIDE FOR THE DUTY-FREE TREATMENT FOR CERTAIN SEMI-MANUFACTURED FORMS OF GOLD

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that will help our domestic semiconductor industry continue to thrive. The proposal

that I am introducing today, along with my colleague from Idaho, Senator Larry CRAIG, merely extends an existing temporary duty suspension for certain semi-manufactured forms of gold. Specifically, the bill amends the U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule to extend, until December 31, 2005, the duty-free treatment of gold bonding wire. This product is critical to the manufacture of semiconductors and integrated circuits.

The Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act of 1996 suspended the 4.9 percent duty given to gold bond wiring classified under Harmonized Tariff Number 7108.13.7000. This temporary duty suspension expires on December 31, 2000 and should be renewed. This is particularly true given that the duty on most other products used in the manufacture of semiconductors were removed during the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations which concluded in 1994. Members of the U.S. semiconductor industry believe the failure to include gold bonding wire in the list of duty eliminations was more of an oversight than anything else. This legislation helps rectify this situation.

The gold bonding wire essential to the manufacture of semiconductors and integrated circuits is unique in its fineness, purity and application. The nearly 100 percent pure gold wire whose diameter measures 0.05 millimeters or less has no other known purposes or uses other than those associated with the assembly of semiconductors.

U.S. semiconductor manufacturers that assemble their products domestically rather than abroad will be adversely impacted if this duty suspension lapses. A duty of almost five percent on gold bond wiring would increase the cost of doing business for American companies that choose to assemble their goods in this country. We should support, not hinder, efforts like this one that are a win-win for the American labor force and our nation's economy. More hardworking Americans are employed when the assembly process occurs domestically. Furthermore, lower costs encourage more U.S. companies to conduct these activities at home. In the end, this provides a boost to the overall economic well-being of the United States.

This duty suspension proposal lacks domestic opposition and its passage has only a de minimis revenue impact. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this measure. 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. 2146

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