

report of a rule entitled "GO Zone Bonus Depreciation Recapture" (Notice 2008-25) received on February 15, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5185. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Time and Manner for Electing Capital Asset Treatment for Certain Self-Created Musical Works" ((RIN1545-BG35)(TD 9379)) received on February 15, 2008; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5186. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of technical data in support of the sale of Sikorsky Model S-70A Helicopters for the United Arab Emirates Armed Forces; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5187. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2008-10-2008-17); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of February 14, 2008, the following reports of committees were submitted on February 22, 2008:

By Mr. LIEBERMAN, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 2324. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) to enhance the Offices of the Inspectors General, to create a Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-262).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. AKAKA, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with amendments:

S. 2142. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reimburse veterans receiving emergency treatment in non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities for such treatment until such veterans are transferred to Department facilities, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-263).

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

S. 2450. A bill to amend the Federal Rules of Evidence to address the waiver of the attorney-client privilege and the work product doctrine (Rept. No. 110-264).

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Report to accompany S. 2045, a bill to reform the Consumer Product Safety Commission to provide greater protection for children's products, to improve the screening of noncompliant consumer products, to improve the effectiveness of consumer product recall programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-265).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED DURING RECESS

On February 15, 2008, under the authority of the order of the Senate of

February 14, 2008, the following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MARTINEZ:

S. 2655. A bill to provide relief for veterans with a disability rated as total; to the Committee on Finance under authority of the order of the Senate of 02/14/2008.

By Mr. SALAZAR:

S. 2656. A bill to prohibit the transport of hydrolysate from the Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado, to an off-site location; to the Committee on Armed Services under authority of the order of the Senate of 02/14/2008.

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2657. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to prescribe regulations to reduce the incidence of vessels colliding with North Atlantic right whales by limiting the speed of vessels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation under authority of the order of the Senate of 02/14/2008.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. KERRY:

S. 2658. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to extend from 90 days to one year the period after release of a member from the Armed Forces from active duty during which the member is protected from mortgage foreclosure; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. REID (for Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2659. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to ensure that all trailers or mobile homes purchased by the Federal Emergency Management Agency meet the safety standards established by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for housing used in programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KERRY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2660. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to ensure that the mission and functions of Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators include keeping energy costs as low as reasonably possible for consumers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 2661. A bill to prohibit the collection of identifying information of individuals by false, fraudulent, or deceptive means through the Internet, a practice known as "phishing", to provide the Federal Trade Commission the necessary authority to enforce such prohibition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GREGG) (by request):

S. 2662. A bill to respond to a medicare funding warning; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. INOUE, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2663. A bill to reform the Consumer Product Safety Commission to provide greater protection for children's products, to improve the screening of noncompliant consumer products, to improve the effectiveness of consumer product recall programs, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2664. A bill to extend the provisions of the Protect America Act of 2007; read the first time.

By Mr. REID:

S. 2665. A bill to extend the provisions of the Protect America Act of 2007 until July 1, 2009; read the first time.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. SMITH, Mr. KERRY, Mr. COLEMAN, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 2666. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage investment in affordable housing, 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. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. HATCH):

S. Res. 458. A resolution expressing the condolences of the Senate to those affected by the devastating shooting incident of February 14, 2008, at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. Res. 459. A resolution expressing the strong support of the Senate for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to extend invitations for membership to Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia at the April 2008 Bucharest Summit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 460. A resolution to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of National Association of Manufacturers v. Taylor, et al; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces who serve in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 211

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 211, a bill to facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on human services, volunteer services, and for other purposes.

S. 243

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 243, a bill to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system

places on the health care delivery system.

S. 367

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 367, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to prohibit the import, export, and sale of goods made with sweatshop labor, and for other purposes.

S. 548

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 548, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that a deduction equal to fair market value shall be allowed for charitable contributions of literary, musical, artistic, or scholarly compositions created by the donor.

S. 718

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 718, a bill to optimize the delivery of critical care medicine and expand the critical care workforce.

S. 950

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 950, a bill to develop and maintain an integrated system of coastal and ocean observations for the Nation's coasts, oceans, and Great Lakes, to improve warnings of tsunami, hurricanes, El Nino events, and other natural hazards, to enhance homeland security, to support maritime operations, to improve management of coastal and marine resources, and for other purposes.

S. 1001

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1001, a bill to restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

S. 1125

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1125, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives to encourage investment in the expansion of freight rail infrastructure capacity and to enhance modal tax equity.

S. 1161

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1161, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the expansion of medicare coverage of medical nutrition therapy services.

S. 1181

At the request of Mr. REED, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1181, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to provide shareholders with an advisory vote on executive compensation.

S. 1287

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Minnesota

(Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1287, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an offset against income tax refunds to pay for State judicial debts that are past-due.

S. 1373

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1373, a bill to provide grants and loan guarantees for the development and construction of science parks to promote the clustering of innovation through high technology activities.

S. 1375

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1375, a bill to ensure that new mothers and their families are educated about postpartum depression, screened for symptoms, and provided with essential services, and to increase research at the National Institutes of Health on postpartum depression.

S. 1376

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1376, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and expand the drug discount program under section 340B of such Act to improve the provision of discounts on drug purchases for certain safety net providers.

S. 1390

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1390, a bill to provide for the issuance of a "forever stamp" to honor the sacrifices of the brave men and women of the armed forces who have been awarded the Purple Heart.

S. 1494

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1494, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the special diabetes programs for Type I diabetes and Indians under that Act.

S. 1572

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1572, a bill to increase the number of well-trained mental health service professionals (including those based in schools) providing clinical mental health care to children and adolescents, and for other purposes.

S. 1707

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1707, a bill to reduce the duty on certain golf club components.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1738, a bill to establish a Special Counsel for Child

Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction within the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, to improve the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, to increase resources for regional computer forensic labs, and to make other improvements to increase the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute predators.

S. 1901

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1901, a bill to amend Public Law 98-513 to provide for the inheritance of small fractional interests within the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation.

S. 1921

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1921, a bill to amend the American Battlefield Protection Act of 1996 to extend the authorization for that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2064

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2064, a bill to fund comprehensive programs to ensure an adequate supply of nurses.

S. 2119

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2119, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who became disabled for life while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. 2144

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2144, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study of feasibility relating to the construction and operation of pipelines and carbon dioxide sequestration facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 2166

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2166, a bill to provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2279

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2279, a bill to combat international violence against women and girls.

S. 2314

At the request of Mr. SALAZAR, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms.

COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2314, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make geothermal heat pump systems eligible for the energy credit and the residential energy efficient property credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2323

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2323, a bill to provide for the conduct of carbon capture and storage technology research, development, and demonstration projects, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to modify the tariffs on certain footwear.

S. 2433

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2433, a bill to require the President to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to further the United States foreign policy objective of promoting the reduction of global poverty, the elimination of extreme global poverty, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of reducing by one-half the proportion of people worldwide, between 1990 and 2015, who live on less than \$1 per day.

S. 2439

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 2439, a bill to require the National Incident Based Reporting System, the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, and the Law Enforcement National Data Exchange Program to list cruelty to animals as a separate offense category.

S. 2444

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2444, a bill to direct the Secretary of Education to provide grants to establish and evaluate sustainability programs, charged with developing and implementing integrated environmental, economic, and social sustainability initiatives, and to direct the Secretary of Education to convene a summit of higher education experts in the area of sustainability.

S. 2460

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2460, a bill to extend by one year the moratorium on implementation of a rule relating to the Federal-State financial partnership under Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program and on finalization of a rule regarding graduate medical education under Medicaid and to include a moratorium on the fi-

nalization of the outpatient Medicaid rule making similar changes.

S. 2510

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2510, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide revised standards for quality assurance in screening and evaluation of gynecologic cytology preparations, and for other purposes.

S. 2523

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2523, a bill to establish the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund in the Treasury of the United States to provide for the construction, rehabilitation, and preservation of decent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income families.

S. 2555

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2555, a bill to permit California and other States to effectively control greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 2560

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2560, a bill to create the income security conditions and family supports needed to ensure permanency for the Nation's unaccompanied youth, and for other purposes.

S. 2569

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2569, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Cancer Institute to make grants for the discovery and validation of biomarkers for use in risk stratification for, and the early detection and screening of, ovarian cancer.

S. 2575

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2575, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to remove certain limitations on the transfer of entitlement to basic educational assistance under Montgomery GI Bill, and for other purposes.

S. 2578

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2578, a bill to temporarily delay application of proposed changes to Medicaid payment rules for case management and targeted case management services.

S. 2579

At the request of Mr. INOUE, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms.

COLLINS) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) were added as cosponsors of S. 2579, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the establishment of the United States Army in 1775, to honor the American soldier of both today and yesterday, in wartime and in peace, and to commemorate the traditions, history, and heritage of the United States Army and its role in American society, from the colonial period to today.

S. 2595

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2595, a bill to create a national licensing system for residential mortgage loan originators, to develop minimum standards of conduct to be enforced by State regulators, and for other purposes.

S. 2596

At the request of Mr. DEMINT, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2596, a bill to rescind funds appropriated by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, for the City of Berkeley, California, and any entities located in such city, and to provide that such funds shall be transferred to the Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps account of the Department of Defense for the purposes of recruiting.

S. 2618

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2618, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research with respect to various forms of muscular dystrophy, including Becker, congenital, distal, Duchenne, Emery-Dreifuss, Facioscapulohumeral, limb-girdle, myotonic, and oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophies.

S. 2631

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2631, a bill to award a congressional gold medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, non-violence, human rights, and democracy in Burma.

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2631, supra.

S. 2633

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from New York

(Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2633, a bill to provide for the safe redeployment of United States troops from Iraq.

S. 2634

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2634, a bill to require a report setting forth the global strategy of the United States to combat and defeat al Qaeda and its affiliates.

S. 2636

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2636, a bill to provide needed housing reform.

S. 2643

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2643, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate regulations to control hazardous air pollutant emissions from electric utility steam generating units.

S. 2650

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2650, a bill to provide for a 5-year carryback of certain net operating losses and to suspend the 90 percent alternative minimum tax limit on certain net operating losses.

S. RES. 454

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 454, a resolution designating the month of March 2008 as "MRSA Awareness Month".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS RECEIVED DURING RECESS

By Mr. SALAZAR:

S. 2656. A bill to prohibit the transport of hydrolysate from the Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado, to an off-site location; to the Committee on Armed Services under authority of the order of the Senate of 02/14/2008.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce legislation that will help us achieve swift and safe destruction of the chemical weapons stored at the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado. Congressman JOHN SALAZAR and Congressman MARK UDALL are introducing similar legislation today in the House.

The Pueblo Chemical Depot is home to 780,000 munitions filled with over 2,600 tons of liquid mustard agent—around 8.5 percent of the original U.S. chemical stockpile. The munitions sit in 96 high security igloos as they await disassembly and destruction.

The congressionally ratified Chemical Weapons Convention mandates that these munitions be destroyed by 2012. Unfortunately, the Department of Defense is woefully behind in fulfilling its responsibilities because it consistently underfunds a program that is essential to our national security and to the safety of nearby communities.

Every year we have to fight to put money back into the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives, ACWA, program, the authority that is overseeing the destruction operation at Pueblo and at the Blue Grass Army Depot, in Kentucky. But, thanks to Congressional intervention, we have succeeded in getting the program moving. Last year Congress allocated over \$400 million for weapons destruction at the Pueblo Chemical Depot and the Blue Grass Army Depot. I want to thank Chairman LEVIN and Ranking Member MCCAIN of the Armed Services Committee, Chairman INOUE and Ranking Member STEVENS of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and Chairman DORGAN and Ranking Member HUTCHISON of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee for all their help.

If you visit the Pueblo Chemical Depot today, you will see that contractors have begun to lay the utilities and foundations for the processing facility that will treat the agent. And you will see that they have begun construction of the biotreatment facility, which will treat the hydrolysate that is the by-product of the mustard neutralization process. It is a welcome sight to finally see earth moving. In addition to the funding that Congress restored in fiscal year 2008 for chemical weapons destruction, we also passed legislation to set a hard deadline of 2017 for the Department of Defense to complete all chemical weapons destruction activities.

It is no secret that DOD is going to miss the 2012 treaty deadline for weapons destruction at Pueblo. That's what happens when you drag your feet and

fail to put adequate resources behind a program. But the law we passed last year says that even if they miss the 2012 deadline, the Department of Defense shall complete work on the destruction of the entire stockpile of lethal chemical agents and munitions absolutely no later than 2017. Every six months, the department has to report to Congress on the progress they are making, what resources are needed, and how much funding is programmed to fulfill this requirement.

For those of us who have been fighting this fight for the Pueblo site, the hard deadline of 2017 is a dramatic improvement. At the pace that we were moving under administration's funding projections last year, destruction activities there were expected to be completed sometime in 2021. 2021.

This is absurd, especially with DOD's own admission that with higher funding levels they could complete destruction at Pueblo a full five years earlier than that.

I am proud that this 2017 deadline has been signed into law and I look forward to working with the Department of Defense to ensure that the U.S. Government meets this legal obligation.

Unfortunately, we still have more work to do to see that these chemical weapons are destroyed as swiftly and safely as possible. For one thing, we will have to continue to hold DOD's feet to the fire to ensure that they are devoting adequate resources to chemical weapons destruction.

We will also have to work to help make the chemical weapons destruction process proceed as smoothly, safely, and expeditiously as possible. This means watching to make sure that DOD does not get bogged down in bureaucracy or red tape that could cause delays.

There is a real danger of this at the Pueblo Site, where the Department of Defense is yet again studying whether it should ship hydrolysate, a byproduct of neutralizing mustard agent, to an off-site location for destruction. Hydrolysate is a hazardous waste that must be subjected to a biotreatment process to make it non-hazardous.

At Pueblo, they have already begun construction of an on site biotreatment facility to neutralize the hydrolysate. This is great news. It is the simplest solution and, according to two recent studies, the fastest way to treat all the hydrolysate.

These two studies, completed in 2007, both concluded that shipping hydrolysate off-site would yield few, if any, cost-savings and would likely result in litigation, strong public opposition, and potential delays to chemical weapons destruction. An analysis conducted by Mitretek found that "a decision for off-site treatment will probably result in litigation of the CD at Pueblo, resulting in extensive delays. Every month of delay costs roughly \$15-\$16 million. Any delay over 6 months, regardless of cause, would be expected to erase all possible savings, even under the most optimistic assumptions."