

caregivers who are taking care of such individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. McCAIN (for himself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 496. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act to repeal a duplicative program relating to inspection and grading of catfish; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. KIRK):

S. 497. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the requirements of the visa waiver program and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 498. A bill to ensure objective, independent review of task and delivery orders; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 499. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to facilitate the development of hydroelectric power on the Diamond Fork System of the Central Utah Project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 500. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal features of the electric distribution system to the South Utah Valley Electric Service District, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

S. Res. 93. A resolution establishing the Committee to Reduce Government Waste; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 17

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 17, a bill to repeal the job-killing tax on medical devices to ensure continued access to life-saving medical devices for patients and maintain the standing of United States as the world leader in medical device innovation.

S. 102

At the request of Mr. McCAIN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 102, a bill to provide an optional fast-track procedure the President may use when submitting rescission requests, and for other purposes.

S. 258

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 258, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate oil and gas company preferences.

S. 344

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs.

BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 347

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for reporting and disclosure by State and local public employee retirement pension plans.

S. 359

At the request of Mr. JOHANNIS, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) were added as cosponsors of S. 359, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the expansion of information reporting requirements to payments made to corporations, payments for property and other gross proceeds, and rental property expense payments, and for other purposes.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 362, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Pancreatic Cancer Initiative, and for other purposes.

S. 386

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 386, a bill to provide assistance to certain employers and States in 2011 and 2012, to improve the long-term solvency of the Unemployment Compensation program, and for other purposes.

S. 387

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 387, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to provide flexible spending arrangements for members of uniformed services, and for other purposes.

S. 390

At the request of Mr. WEBB, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 390, a bill to ensure that the right of an individual to display the Service Flag on residential property not be abridged.

S. 398

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 398, a bill to amend

the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to improve energy efficiency of certain appliances and equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 412

At the request of Mr. LEVIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 412, a bill to ensure that amounts credited to the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund are used for harbor maintenance.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to provide for comprehensive budget reform in order to increase transparency and reduce the deficit.

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 7, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. RES. 51

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 51, a resolution recognizing the 190th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

S. RES. 86

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 86, a resolution recognizing the Defense Intelligence Agency on its 50th Anniversary.

S. RES. 87

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 87, a resolution designating the year of 2012 as the "International Year of Cooperatives".

S. RES. 90

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 90, a resolution supporting the goals of "International Women's Day" and recognizing this year's centennial anniversary of International Women's Day.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. McCAIN (for himself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 496. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act to repeal a duplicative program relating to inspection and grading of catfish; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined by my colleague, Senator COBURN, in introducing legislation to repeal duplicative federal regulations relating to the inspection and grading of catfish. Specifically, our bill would rescind a provision in the 2008 Farm Bill, Section 11016 of P.L. 110-246, which aims to inhibit Vietnamese catfish imports as well as catfish imports of other potential trade partners.

Section 11016 is nothing more than the latest effort by Members of Congress serving the special interests of the catfish industry in their home States. A similar protectionist tactic was tried in the 2002 Farm Bill when many of these same members slipped in language that made it illegal to label Vietnamese catfish, “pangasius,” as catfish in U.S. retail markets. The intent there was to discourage American consumers from buying Vietnamese catfish products even though they are virtually indistinguishable from U.S. grown catfish. It didn't work. Vietnamese catfish remain popular with American consumers because it is more affordable and cheaper to produce than domestic catfish grown in aquaculture ponds. Now these special interests are relying on this latest Farm Bill rider to over regulate Vietnamese catfish by, ironically, deeming pangasius a catfish again. Under the guise of food safety, the 2008 Farm Bill directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Inspection Service, FSIS, to inspect catfish like it does meat products or eggs, except that no other fish is under the regulatory thumb of the FSIS. Catfish is already regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, FDA, which hasn't reported any safety or health problems with the Vietnamese imports. Domestic producers are simply trying to create barriers for Vietnamese catfish farmers by forcing them to comply with a second inspection regime administered by an entirely different arm of the Federal bureaucracy.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, is currently engaged in the proposed rulemaking process for implementing this new inspection authority. A recent Government Accountability Office, GAO, report flagged this FSIS program as “duplicative” and “high risk” for “fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement.” GAO estimates that the USDA would spend about \$30 million in taxpayer dollars to implement the agency's new catfish inspection program and that we would be further fragmenting our federal food safety system by having catfish regulated twice by both USDA and FDA.

The provision that I am seeking to repeal is nothing more than a protectionist tactic funded at taxpayers' expense. If implemented, the proposed USDA regulations will lead to a duplicative, costly and complex overseas inspection program that serves no real purpose but to protect American catfish growers from competition while forcing American consumers to pay more for fish. Not only is the catfish

provision in Section 11016 offensive to our principles of free trade, it flagrantly disregards our Bilateral Trade Agreement and relationship with Vietnam. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 93—ESTABLISHING THE COMMITTEE TO REDUCE GOVERNMENT WASTE

Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 93

Resolved,

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT.

There shall be a Senate committee known as the Committee to Reduce Government Waste (referred to in this resolution as the “Committee”).

SEC. 2. MEMBERSHIP.

(a) COMPOSITION.—The Committee shall be composed of 12 members as follows:

(1) 4 members from the Committee on Finance, 2 selected by the Majority Leader and 2 selected by the Minority Leader.

(2) 4 members from the Committee on Appropriations, 2 selected by the Majority Leader and 2 selected by the Minority Leader.

(3) 4 members from the Committee on the Budget, 2 selected by the Majority Leader and 2 selected by the Minority Leader.

(b) TENURE OF OFFICE.—

(1) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members shall be appointed for a period of not to exceed 6 years.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—No person shall continue to serve as a member of the Committee after the person has ceased to be a member of the Committee from which the member was chosen.

(c) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Committee shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(d) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—The Committee shall select a Chairman and Vice Chairman from among its members.

(e) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings. The powers conferred upon them by section 4 may be exercised by a majority vote.

SEC. 3. DUTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall have the following duties:

(1) STUDY.—The Committee shall—

(A) research, review, and study Federal programs that are underperforming or nonessential; and

(B) determine which Federal programs should be modified or eliminated.

(2) RECOMMEND.—The Committee shall develop recommendations to the Senate for action designed to modify or eliminate underperforming or nonessential Federal programs.

(3) REPORT AND LEGISLATION.—The Committee shall submit to the Senate—

(A) at least once a year, reports including—

(i) a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the Committee; and

(ii) a list of underperforming or nonessential Federal programs; and

(B) such legislation and administrative actions as it considers appropriate.

(b) CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATION.—Any legislation submitted to the Senate by the Committee shall be considered under the provisions of section 310 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 641).

SEC. 4. POWERS.

(a) HEARINGS.—The Committee or, at its direction, any subcommittee or member of the Committee, may, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 3—

(1) sit and act, at any time, during the sessions, recesses, and adjourned periods of Congress;

(2) require as the Committee considers necessary, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers, and documents;

(3) administer oaths and take testimony; and

(4) procure necessary printing and binding.

(b) WITNESS ALLOWANCES AND FEES.—The provisions of section 1821 of title 28, United States Code, shall apply to witnesses requested to appear at any hearing of the Committee. The per diem and mileage allowances for witnesses shall be paid from funds available to pay the expenses of the Committee.

(c) EXPENDITURES.—The Committee, or any subcommittee thereof, is authorized to make such expenditures as it deems advisable.

SEC. 5. APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION OF STAFF.

Except as otherwise provided by law, the Committee shall have power to appoint and fix the compensation of the Chief of Staff of the Committee and such experts and clerical, stenographic, and other assistants as it deems advisable.

SEC. 6. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.

The expenses of the Committee shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, our Nation's fiscal situation has reached a tipping point. The debt held by the public now exceeds \$9 trillion. We are now in our third year of trillion dollar deficits. According to the Congressional Budget Office, by the end of 2011, our debt will be \$10.4 trillion. This represents 69 percent of GDP, the highest level since 1950.

The picture only gets uglier if you take into account other factors. Our total public debt outstanding is over \$14 trillion. Moreover, if you assume that certain things that always happen will continue to happen things like the AMT patch, tax relief for families and businesses, and a “doc-fix” our debt will soon be nearly 100 percent of GDP.

This is, quite simply, unsustainable. If we do not act now to get a handle on this spending, the nation that gave boundless opportunity to generations of Americans will not be there for our children and grandchildren. With interest payments on all this debt set to grow from \$225 billion in 2011 to \$792 billion in 2021, we are approaching a fiscal death spiral.

Congress could go a long way simply by reducing wasteful and redundant government spending. Last week, in response to a request from my colleague from Oklahoma, Dr. COBURN, the Government Accountability Office released a report identifying between \$100 and \$200 billion in wasteful spending on redundant government programs alone.

Dr. COBURN has been doing yeoman's work burrowing into the federal budget to find the sources of wasteful spending, but getting this report from GAO