

NATIONAL HIGHWAY SYSTEM AND
NATIONAL SPEED LIMIT

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, this week, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee reported out a bill to designate the National Highway System or NHS. I want to congratulate the chairman of the committee on his leadership.

While some provisions in the bill cause me some concern, there is one feature that I would like to highlight today.

The National Highway System authorization bill repeals the national maximum speed limit. This is a commonsense feature. Repeal removes the threat of Federal highway dollar sanctions if a State does not post its roads at a 55- or 65-mile-per-hour speed limit.

The current standard of 55 or 65 miles per hour may make sense in some States—especially in urban, congested areas. However, for big, sparsely populated States like Montana, it may make sense to change that standard. And there is no need for Washington to decide for us.

Mr. President, the point is that the States should have the ability to set their own speed limits. The citizens in each State should have a say in these decisions without the threat of a Federal highway fund sanction.

I spend a lot of time walking the roads in Montana. I have walked from Livingston to Bozeman along I-90; down Route 93 from Missoula to Hamilton; up from Butte along the road to Missoula; and this summer I hope to spend a lot of time on the Hi-Line.

And I can tell you first-hand, those are easy roads to walk and they are easy roads to drive. They do not get a lot of traffic. People stop and talk. I can wave to every other driver as he or she goes by. And we should not treat these roads as if they have bumper-to-bumper New York traffic.

We made at least a start by letting States raise the limit to 65 on rural roads. But a Montana driver could drive very safely on many of our roads at a higher speed. Montana should be able to set its own speed limit without threatening our highway money.

So, Mr. President, among all the things the NHS bill does—tucked in amongst the big construction projects, new technology, increased competitiveness, and new jobs—is something that is pretty small, but which does a lot to make life easier and Government more sensible.

It is just plain, simple common sense. Thank you, Mr. President.

INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF
MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 1075

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. CHAFEE], for himself and Mr. BAUCUS, proposes an amendment numbered 1075.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

Delete from page 34, line 5 through page 35, line 2 and replace with the following:

“(3)(A) Except as provided in paragraph (4), any State that imported more than 750,000 tons of out-of-State municipal solid waste in 1993 may establish a limit under this paragraph on the amount of out-of-State municipal solid waste received for disposal at landfills and incinerators in the importing State as follows:

“(i) In calendar year 1996, 95 percent of the amount exported to the State in calendar year 1993.

“(ii) In calendar years 1997 through 2002, 95 percent of the amount exported to the State in the previous year.

“(iii) In calendar year 2003, and each succeeding year, the limit shall be 65 percent of the amount exported in 1993.

“(iv) No exporting State shall be required under this subparagraph to reduce its exports to any importing State below the proportionate amount established herein.”

On page 36, line 12, add “and the Governor of the importing State may only apply subparagraph (A) or (B) but not both” after “facilities”.

On page 38, line 2, after “year” insert “, and the amount of waste that was received pursuant to host community agreements or permits authorizing receipt of out-of-State municipal solid waste”.

On page 38, line 3, delete “July 1” and insert “May 1”.

On page 38, delete from line 17 through page 39, line 6 and replace with the following:

“(C) LIST.—The Administrator shall publish a list of importing States and the out-of-State municipal solid waste received from each State at landfills or incinerators not covered by host community agreements or permits authorizing receipt of out-of-State municipal solid waste.”

On page 35, line 20, strike “800,000”, replace with “750,000”.

On page 35, line 22, strike “600,000”, replace with “550,000”.

On page 52, strike line 6, insert the following: “sources outside the State.”

“(g) IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT.—Any State may adopt such laws and regulations, not inconsistent with this section, as are necessary to implement and enforce this section, including provisions for penalties.”

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, this managers’ amendment that I have sent to the desk is the result of laborious and lengthy negotiations involving the distinguished Senator from Indiana, who spent so much time in connection with this legislation, and the distinguished Senator from New York, and many other Senators who have an interest in this legislation.

So I urge its adoption.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, we have examined the amendment. It is my understanding that various Senators, particularly the Senator from Pennsylvania, as well as the delegation from Illinois, who had some questions in the last final moments, have now found their objections are no longer such as

to prevent the Senate from passing this bill. They no longer have those objections.

With those assurances, Mr. President, I urge the passage of the bill.

I want to particularly thank the Senator from Indiana, Senator COATS. Senator COATS labored in the vineyards in this issue for years and years, and I highly commend him for his efforts to limit out-of-State garbage from coming into his State of Indiana. I also want to compliment the chairman of the committee.

Last year, we almost passed this bill—within an eyelash of passing it. I compliment the chairman of the committee for helping make passage a virtual reality here today.

Many other Senators worked very hard trying to get the right balance, basically, between those States who want to limit trash coming into their States and those States that still do export a lot of trash.

Now, the exporting States, particularly New York and New Jersey, I think are to be commended for taking significant action to reduce the amount of exports to those States to put less pressure on importing States.

Nevertheless, I think it is very important that the importing States—including my State of Montana—have the ability to say no to out-of-State trash. It is very important we have that.

I compliment, again, the Senator from Indiana as well as the Senator from New York [Mr. D’AMATO]. I urge the adoption of this amendment.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, the Senator from Montana commended me for laboring in the vineyards for so many years. It did not seem like I was in the vineyards—more like the town dump.

I want to thank the chairman, Senator CHAFEE, for his work this year with me and with the coalition in fashioning this legislation, in particular this amendment that is being sent to the desk. It is the culmination of a lot of years, of a lot of work, by a lot of people.

As the Senator from Montana said, it is critical that States that are unwilling recipients of out-of-State waste have a say as to whether or not they receive this waste.

The Senator from Montana has worked tirelessly to help Members accomplish this effort. I would say to the Senator from Rhode Island, what a difference a year makes. We are here, together, working together on fashioning what I think is very appropriate legislation. I want to thank him, along with Senator SMITH, Senator D’AMATO, and others, for helping to put this amendment together. I urge its adoption.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, again I would like to say that the reason we have this legislation is really because of the steady, persistent tenacity of the Senator from Indiana.