

students are now exposed to real-world experiences while providing business and industry with essential new ideas and out-of-the-box thinking.

These kinds of partnerships and innovations will carry Ohio into the next era of progress and development, and Kent State will be an important part of that success. Already, 10 start-up companies have been created in the last 6 years to capitalize on Kent State faculty research and add to the economic growth in the region. This is real-world research that benefits society, consumers, and the university.

Under Carol Cartwright's leadership, Kent State was named by the Association of University Technology Managers as fourth in the Nation for the number of start-up companies formed per \$10 million in research spending. Kent State also plays an important leadership role in JumpStart Inc., a new organization to help advance technology commercialization and foster economic development in Ohio.

Overall, President Cartwright's presidency has been marked by a commitment to developing students who are leaders and experts in innovation and service. Kent State has launched degree programs in high-demand and emerging fields, including an interdisciplinary undergraduate program in biotechnology that is unique in the State of Ohio; an interdisciplinary bachelor's program in American Sign Language; a baccalaureate program in paralegal studies; and the first graduate programs in Russian and Japanese at a public university in northeast Ohio. The revolutionary joint doctoral program in biomedicine with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation matches some of America's best and brightest students with world-class medical training opportunities, and Kent State is a partner in the Nation's only joint, 4-year doctoral program in audiology.

Her commitment to preparing students for the future and working with regional economic growth initiatives should be a model for colleges and universities across the country to emulate.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and commending President Cartwright on an excellent job of leading Kent State through an age of innovation and extraordinary achievement during her tenure. I wish her well on her upcoming retirement. ●

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 2603. A bill to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

S. 2611. A bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

S. 2612. A bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-6341. A communication from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule to Remove the Arizona Distinct Population Segment of the Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl (*Glauucidium brasilianum cactorum*) From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife; Withdrawal of the Proposed Rule to Designate Critical Habitat; Removal of Federally Designated Critical Habitat" (RIN1018-AU22; 1018-A148) received on April 6, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6342. A communication from the Regional Forester, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska, Subpart A" (RIN1018-AT81) received on April 6, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6343. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Record-keeping and Reporting Requirements for the Import of Halon-1301 Aircraft Fire Extinguishing Vessels" (RIN2060-AM46) (FRL No. 8157-5) received on April 6, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6344. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Arizona State Implementation Plan, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality" (FRL No. 8054-8) received on April 6, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6345. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Final Determination to Stay and/or Defer Sanctions, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality" (FRL No. 8054-9) received on April 6, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6346. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District and South Coast Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 8053-2) received on April 6, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6347. A communication from the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule: Standard for the Flammability (Open Flame) of Mattress Sets" (RIN3041-AC02) received on April 6, 2006; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-6348. A communication from the Legislative Affairs Branch Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Healthy For-

ests Reserve Program Interim Final Rule" (7 CFR Part 625) received on April 6, 2006; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6349. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pendimethalin; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 7770-4) received on April 6, 2006; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-6350. A communication from the Director, Strategic Human Resources Policy Division, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Excepted Service—Student Program" (RIN3206-AK59) received on April 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6351. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Report on the Proposed Richard Nixon Library; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-6352. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Service, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Parental Information and Resource Centers—Notice of Final Priorities and Eligibility Requirements" received on April 6, 2006; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6353. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Service, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State Charter School Facilities Incentive Program" received on April 6, 2006; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-6354. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, transmitting, authorization of 2 officers to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-291. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington relative to international trade; to the Committee on Finance.

ENGROSSED SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8019

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent and petition as follows:

Whereas, The trade liberalization efforts of the early 1990s and trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement and the World Trade Organization Uruguay Round agreements have increased the role of state policymakers in international trade decisions; and

Whereas, Trade liberalization has transformed the historical state-federal division of power and taxed state agency resources in dealing with the world marketplace; and

Whereas, Recent trade agreements have proceeded beyond discussion of tariffs and quotas and now address government regulation, taxation, procurement, and economic development policies that are implemented at state and local levels; and

Whereas, States often lack a clearly defined institutional trade policy structure,

making it difficult to handle requests from trading partners and federal agencies and to articulate a unified state stance on trade issues; and

Whereas, International lawsuits may be brought against states and governments found to be in violation of trade agreements; and

Whereas, There is a need for a stronger federal-state trade policy consultation mechanism; and

Whereas, Many state and local executive, legislative, and judicial branch officials have voiced the need for an informed, nonpartisan trade policy dialogue on a national level; and

Whereas, Federal-state communication and cooperation in the implementation of trade agreements is needed now more than ever before; and

Whereas, In August 2004, the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Committee, a state-appointed advisory committee to the United States Trade Representative, recommended that a Federal-State International Trade Policy Commission would be an ideal resource for objective trade policy analysis and would foster communication among federal and state trade policy officials; and

Whereas, The creation of a federal-state trade policy infrastructure would assist states in understanding the scope of federal trade efforts and would assist federal agencies in understanding the various state trade processes; Now therefore,

Your Memorialists respectfully request that the United States Trade Representative create a Federal-State International Trade Policy Commission with membership to be drawn from federal and state trade policy officials; and be it

Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, the Ambassador Rob Portman, United States Trade Representative, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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 Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2596. A bill to modify the boundaries for a certain empowerment zone designation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 2597. A bill to facilitate homeownership in high-cost areas; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. STABENOW:

S. 2598. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and operate a community-based outpatient clinic in Alpena, Michigan; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. COBURN, Mrs. DOLE, and Mr. SUNUNU):

S. 2599. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to prohibit the confiscation of firearms during certain national emergencies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mrs. CLINTON):

S. 2600. A bill to equalize authorities to provide allowances, benefits, and gratuities to civilian personnel of the United States Government in Iraq and Afghanistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. DEMINT):

S. 2601. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to improve choices available to Medicare eligible seniors by permitting them to elect (instead of regular Medicare benefits) to receive a voucher for a health savings account, for premiums for a high deductible health insurance plan, or both and by suspending Medicare late enrollment penalties between ages 65 and 70; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2602. A bill for the relief of Silvia Leticia Barojas-Alejandre; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2603. A bill to reduce temporarily the royalty required to be paid for sodium produced on Federal lands, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. ALLARD:

S. 2604. A bill to address the forest and watershed emergency in the State of Colorado that has been exacerbated by the bark beetle infestation, to provide for the conduct of activities in the State to reduce the risk of wildfire and flooding, to promote economically healthy rural communities by reinvigorating the forest products industry in the State, to encourage the use of biomass fuels for energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ALLARD:

S. 2605. A bill to amend the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve Act of 2000 to explain the purpose and provide for the administration of the Baca National Wildlife Refuge; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 2606. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make publicly available on the official Medicare Internet site medicare payment rates for frequently reimbursed hospital inpatient procedures, hospital outpatient procedures, and physicians' services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. BENNETT):

S. 2607. A bill to establish a 4-year small business health insurance information pilot program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. VITTER):

S. 2608. A bill to ensure full partnership of small contractors in Federal disaster reconstruction efforts; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. LEAHY):

S. 2609. A bill to improve the oversight and regulation of tissue banks and the tissue donation process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 2610. A bill to enhance the management and disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. 2611. A bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. HAGEL (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. BROWNBACK):

S. 2612. A bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. OBAMA):

S. 2613. A bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to establish a program to provide reimbursement for the installation of alternative energy refueling systems; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. OBAMA):

S. 2614. A bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to establish a program to provide reimbursement for the installation of alternative energy refueling systems; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI:

S. 2615. A bill to provide equitable treatment for the people of the Village corporation established for the Native Village of Saxman, Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. SPECTER):

S. 2616. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 and the Mineral Leasing Act to improve surface mining control and reclamation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. KERRY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. DEWINE):

S. 2617. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to limit increases in the costs to retired members of the Armed Forces of health care services under the TRICARE program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2618. A bill to permit an individual to be treated by a health care practitioner with any method of medical treatment such individual requests, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2619. A bill to authorize the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide relief to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita by placing manufactured homes in flood plains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. CLINTON:

S. 2620. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize the Assistant Secretary for Aging to provide older individuals with financial assistance to select a flexible range of home and community-based long-term care services or supplies, provided in a manner that respects the individuals' choices and preferences; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HATCH, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. Res. 438. A resolution expressing the sense of Congress that institutions of higher education should adopt policies and educational programs on their campuses to help deter and eliminate illicit copyright infringement occurring on, and encourage educational uses of, their computer systems and networks; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. COLEMAN):