

“(ii) EXPERIENCE.—Not less than 50 percent of the members shall represent or be employed by private marine resource companies that are involved in exploration of the marine environment or development of marine mineral resources.

“(iii) INTEREST.—None of the members may have an interest in a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement being evaluated by the panel.

“(B) NO COMPENSATION.—A review panel member who is not otherwise a Federal employee shall receive no compensation for performing duties under this section, except that, while engaged in the performance of duties away from the home or regular place of business of the member, the member may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as a person employed intermittently in the Government service under section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

“(3) EVALUATION.—A competitive review panel shall base an evaluation of a proposal on criteria developed by the Secretary that shall include—

“(A) the merits of the proposal;

“(B) the research methodology and costs of the proposal;

“(C) the capability of the entity submitting the proposal and any other participating entity to perform the proposed work and provide in-kind contributions;

“(D) the amount of matching funds provided by the entity submitting the proposal or provided by other Federal, State, or private entities;

“(E) the extent of collaboration with other Federal, State, or private entities;

“(F) in the case of a noncommercial entity, the existence of a cooperative agreement with a commercial entity that provides for collaboration in the proposed research;

“(G) whether the proposal promotes responsible environmental stewardship; and

“(H) such other factors as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(C) LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 10 percent of the amount made available to carry out this section during a fiscal year may be used by the Secretary for expenses associated with administration of the program authorized by this section.

“(2) CONSTRUCTION COSTS.—None of the funds made available under this section may be used for the construction of a new building or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building (including site grading and improvement and architect fees).

“(d) REPORTS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant or contract or enters into a cooperative agreement under this section shall submit an annual progress report and a final technical report to the Secretary that—

“(1) describes project activities, implications of the project, the significance of the project to marine mineral research, identification, assessment, and exploration, and potential commercial and economic benefits and effects of the project; and

“(2) in the case of an annual progress report, includes a project plan for the subsequent year.

“SEC. 204. MARINE MINERAL RESEARCH CENTERS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—No later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall designate 3 centers for marine mineral research and related activities.

“(b) CONCENTRATION.—One center shall concentrate primarily on research in the continental shelf regions of the United States, 1 center shall concentrate primarily on research in deep seabed and near-shore environments of islands, and 1 center shall concentrate primarily on research in arctic and cold water regions.

“(c) CRITERIA.—In designating a center under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to a university that—

“(1) administers a federally funded center for marine minerals research;

“(2) matriculates students for advanced degrees in marine geological sciences, nonenergy

natural resources, and related fields of science and engineering;

“(3) is a United States university with established programs and facilities that primarily focus on marine mineral resources;

“(4) has engaged in collaboration and cooperation with industry, governmental agencies, and other universities in the field of marine mineral resources;

“(5) has demonstrated significant engineering, development, and design experience in two or more of the following areas:

“(A) seabed exploration systems;

“(B) marine mining systems; and

“(C) marine mineral processing systems; and

“(6) has been designated by the Secretary as a State Mining and Mineral Resources Research Institute.

“(d) CENTER ACTIVITIES.—A center shall—

“(1) provide technical assistance to the Secretary concerning marine mineral resources;

“(2) advise the Secretary on pertinent international activities in marine mineral resources development;

“(3) engage in research, training, and education transfer associated with the characterization and utilization of marine mineral resources; and

“(4) promote the efficient identification, assessment, exploration, and management of marine mineral resources in an environmentally sound manner.

“(e) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—In distributing funds to the centers designated under subsection (a), the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, allocate an equal amount to each center.

“(f) LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 5 percent of the amount made available to carry out this section during a fiscal year may be used by the Secretary for expenses associated with administration of the program authorized by this section.

“(2) CONSTRUCTION COSTS.—None of the funds made available under this section may be used for the construction of a new building or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building (including site grading and improvement and architect fees).

“SEC. 205. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this title.”.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendment be agreed to, the title amendment be agreed to, the bill be deemed read a third time, and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The committee amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1194), as amended, was deemed read the third time and passed.

The title was amended so as to read: “To promote the research, identification, assessment, and exploration of marine mineral resources, and for other purposes.”.

#### AMENDING THE HELIUM ACT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4168 received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4168) to amend the Helium Act to authorize the Secretary to enter into agreements with private parties for the recovery and disposal of helium on Federal lands, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time, and passed, that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 4168) was deemed read the third time and passed.

#### ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. LOTT. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 556, which is H.R. 3868.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3868) to extend certain programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through September 30, 1996.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 5415

(Purpose: To extend energy conservation programs under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act through calendar year 1997, and for other purposes)

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk on behalf of Senator MURKOWSKI.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. LOTT], for Mr. MURKOWSKI, proposes an amendment numbered 5415.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. ENERGY POLICY AND CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENTS.

The Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended—

(1) by amending section 166 (42 U.S.C. 6246) to read as follows:

#### “AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

“SEC. 166. There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 1997 such sums as may be necessary to implement this part.”;

(2) in section 181 (42 U.S.C. 6251) by striking “June 30, 1996” both places it appears and inserting in lieu thereof “September 30, 1997”;

(3) by striking “section 252(1)(l)” in section 251(e)(1) (42 U.S.C. 6271(e)(1)) and inserting “section 252(k)(1)”;

(4) in section 252 (42 U.S.C. 6272)—

(A) in subsections (a)(1) and (b), by striking “allocation and information provisions of the international energy program” and inserting “international emergency response provisions”;

(B) in subsection (d)(3), by striking “known” and inserting after “circumstances” “known at the time of approval”;