

The cooperative agreement may cover one or more sites identified and assessed for remediation or other response action. The Secretary shall make a determination regarding such application within 90 days after receiving the application.

“(f) CONTRACTING PROVISIONS.—“In implementing the provisions of any cooperative agreement or the award of any contract pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall—

“(1) apply the provisions of—

“(A) 25 U.S.C. §450(e)(b);

“(B) 48 C.F.R. §26.1.; and

“(C) 48 C.F.R. §226.1; and

“(2) enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with tribal community colleges and tribal vocational educational institutions to provide training to Indian tribes as required under this section.

“(e) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this section, the term—

“(1) “Indian” means “Indian” as defined in 25 U.S.C. §450(b), the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act.

“(2) “Indian tribe” means “Indian tribe” as defined in 25 U.S.C. §450(b)(d), the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act.

“(3) “Indian organization” means an “organization” as defined in 25 U.S.C. 1452(f), the Indian Financing Act.

“(4) “Indian-owned economic enterprise” means an “economic enterprise” as defined in 25 U.S.C. 1452(e), the Indian Financing Act.

“(5) “Indian lands” means “Indian lands” as defined in 25 U.S.C. §3902(3) and (4), the Indian Lands Open Dumps Clean-Up Act.

“(f) AUTHORIZATION.—There is hereby authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1998 and 1999, to remain available until expended. For each of fiscal years 2000 through 2006, there is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.”

## NOTICES OF HEARINGS

### COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Small Business has cancelled the June 24, 1997, hearing entitled “Small Business Reauthorization Act of 1997.”

For further information, please contact Paul Cooksey at 224-5175.

### COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet in SR-301, Russell Senate Office Building, on Wednesday, June 25, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. to receive testimony on “Campaign Finance—Are Political Contributions Voluntary: Union Dues and Corporate Activity.”

For further information concerning this hearing, please contact Stewart Verdery of the Rules Committee staff at 224-2204.

### PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, will hold hearings on “Medicare At Risk: Emerging Fraud in Medicare Programs.”

This hearing will take place on Wednesday, June 25, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. in

room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Timothy Shea of the subcommittee staff at 224-3721.

## AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, June 19, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. on pending committee business.

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

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 19 for purposes of conducting a Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.

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

### COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be permitted to meet Thursday, June 19, 1997, beginning at 10 a.m. in room SH-216, to conduct a markup on budget reconciliation.

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

### SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Aviation Subcommittee on the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, June 19, 1997, at 2:30 p.m. on United States/Japan aviation relations.

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

### SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY, EXPORT AND TRADE PROMOTION

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion of the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 19, at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing.

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

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### FRIVOLOUS LAWSUIT PREVENTION ACT

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I am pleased to speak about an issue I feel strongly about and have consistently supported during my tenure in the U.S. Senate. Today I rise in defense of Senate bill 400, the Frivolous Lawsuit Prevention Act, of which I am a cosponsor.

The Senate has debated tort reform legislation in the past and this year several bills have been introduced that attempt to remediate our legal system. S. 400 takes a narrow approach and focuses on the particular problem of persons who deliberately abuse America's courts.

I appreciate the efforts of Senator GRASSLEY in introducing this important bill, which is a vital component of legal reform. It aims to rescue our courts from engaging in suits that more resemble talk show fodder than legitimate claims of wrongdoing. Specifically, the bill amends rule 11 of the Federal rules of civil procedure by making sanctions mandatory rather than discretionary whenever federal courts find a violation of that rule has occurred and an attorney has engaged in frivolous conduct.

For example, if a party files a lawsuit purely to badger another party, and the judge finds this to be true, the court can impose a punishment commensurate with the degree of the violation. Prior to 1993, this type of sanctioning had been standard procedure. Unfortunately, however, this rule was severely modified 4 years ago. Congress must now enact S. 400 to once again protect the courts from frivolous lawsuits that clog this Nation's legal system and impede the ability of legitimate claims to be heard.

Our courts must never become playgrounds for egregious claims and wild accusations that seek only to harass an individual. Those who engage in such conduct must face sanctions for their action. In my view, this bill will relieve our courts and restore the dignity and integrity that America's system of justice demands.●

## RECOGNITION OF THE RECIPIENTS OF THE GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD, DUPAGE COUNTY GIRL SCOUTS

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I would like to salute six outstanding young women who were honored on May 12, 1997, with the Girl Scout Gold Award by the Dupage County Girl Scout Council of Naperville, IL. The Girl Scout Award symbolizes outstanding accomplishments in the area of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal planning. I commend these young women for their dedication to our community.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., an organization serving over 2.5 million girls, has awarded more than 20,000 Girl Scout Awards to senior Girl Scouts since the inception of the program in 1980. To receive the award, a Girl Scout must earn four interest project patches. The Career Exploration Pin, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, and the Senior Girl Scout Challenge. The Scout must also design and implement a Girl Scout Gold Award project. A plan for fulfilling these requirements is created by the senior Girl Scout and

is carried out through close cooperation between the girl and an adult volunteer. These objectives are met only through hard work and discipline, as displayed by the six young women honored on May 12.

A member of Girl Scout Troop 936, Jennifer Gary began working toward the Girl Scout Gold Award in 1994. Her project, focused on providing a Costa Rican culture experience for people in her community and raised community awareness about the importance of rain forests to our global environment.

The environment was also the focus of Carla Dingler's project. Carla, a member of Girl Scout Troop 167, coordinated six different environmental cleanups in her community.

Cyndie Bagarie, an individual Girl Member, completed an innovative project she began working on in 1995. Cyndie created a raffle-like event, whereby members of the community were given the opportunity to win free swim lessons from Cyndie by donating food to a local food pantry.

Girl Scout Troop 42 member Susan Mickelson created and distributed a wallet-size index of public phone numbers for teens. This arduous project began in 1993.

Another member of Troop 42, Erin Kraatz, knitted teddy bears for the children residing at a local women's shelter. This ongoing project started in 1993.

Jennifer Buhrow, an individual girl member, began working toward the Girl Scout Award in 1995. Her project consisted of collecting books, toys, games, and school supplies for the children at a local women's shelter.

At a time when our Nation's youth face so many obstacles, it is encouraging to see six young women devoted to fostering an understanding between cultures and people, and taking steps to bring issues of importance to the attention of others. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Jennifer Gary, Carla Dingler, Cyndie Bagarie, Susan Mickelson, Erin Kraatz, and Jennifer Buhrow as they are recognized for their hard work and service to the community. We can all take pride in the fact that these six young women have made vital contributions to the State of Illinois. The people of Illinois are grateful for their contributions as public servants.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE 34TH ANNUAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

• Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today in support of America's small businesses and in recognition of the 34th annual Small Business Week. As a member of the Small Business Committee, I understand that small business is truly the engine of economic growth in America. Ninety percent of all U.S. businesses have less than 20 employees and 99 percent have fewer than 500 employees. These small businesses employ more than half of our Nation's workforce and create a large

majority of our new jobs. In fact, 40 percent of our Nation's goods and services are produced by small businesses—making America's entrepreneurs the world's third greatest economic power, trailing only the production of the entire United States economy and Japan.

We celebrate Small Business Week every year to recognize those people on the front lines of our economy. I would like to take a moment to specifically recognize Tennessee's 1997 Small Business Person of the Year—Bob Pap—the president of the Accurate Automation Corp. in Chattanooga. Accurate Automation is an aerospace/computer systems company doing research and development in hypersonic aircraft design and the emerging technology of neural networks. Accurate Automation began in 1988 as a two-person company located in a 450-square-foot office. Today, it has 33 employees, 5 consultants, and a 13,000-square-foot office facility. Bob Pap's corporation is a great example of how hard work and ingenuity can lead to small business success.

The work of a small business owner never ends. Therefore, Congress should not stop working for small business after Small Business Week. We must reduce or eliminate the restrictive taxes, unfunded mandates, and burdensome regulations plaguing small businesses. Many Federal bureaucrats and lawmakers do not understand that small businesses do not have the money and personnel to cope with regulatory paperwork. They do not understand that small firms lack a corporate legal department to guide them through a maze of regulatory compliance. And, most importantly, they do not understand that each new tax, mandate, and regulation stifles business expansion, job creation, and economic growth.

Fortunately, Congress is taking action to foster a healthier environment for entrepreneurs. Reducing the capital gains tax rate is vital to creating jobs and expanding economic growth. Through high capital gains rates the Federal Government penalizes people who take risks and invest their hard-earned income in homes, savings accounts, mutual funds, small and large businesses, or family farms. In addition, this high tax rate threatens American leadership in the global marketplace. The United States has the highest capital gains rate of any major industrialized nation in the world. We cannot expect to remain competitive if we are not on a level playing field with other countries. Lowering the capital gains rate is essential to maintaining a strong economy and supporting the cause of America's small business men and women.

The bipartisan balanced budget agreement cuts the capital gains tax rate for individuals in the 15-percent tax bracket to 10 percent and for individuals in the 28-percent bracket to 20 percent. It also provides for the exclusion of gain on the sale of a home and indexing for inflation.

Estate tax reform is also a high priority. Confiscatory estate tax rates are extremely detrimental to small businesses. They depress national savings, discourage entrepreneurial risk, and limit economic growth. Too often, family farms and small businesses are forced out of business after the death of a key family member because the family cannot afford to pay the estate tax. We need to make sure that there is an incentive for entrepreneurs to start small businesses and that there is a way for these small businesses to flourish after an important family member dies. The bipartisan balanced budget agreement also includes a phased-in increase in the unified estate tax credit equivalent to \$1 million and inflation indexing.

While capital gains and estate tax relief have been a major focus of our tax agenda, there are other important small business issues that deserve attention. One of those issues is electronic tax filing. Under a 1993 law, small businesses were required to submit their Federal tax payments electronically beginning this July. However, due to inadequate education and implementation by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), more than 1 million small businesses were very confused about how to transition to the new system, concerned about the possibility of fines and penalties, and frustrated overall with the mandatory nature of this new requirement. Fortunately, relief is on the way. I voted for the supplemental appropriations bill that included an extension of the electronic tax filing deadline from July 1, 1997 to the end of this tax year, December 31, 1997. And the President has already signed this provision into law.

On another tax issue, I have cosponsored S. 460, the Home-Based Business Fairness Act of 1997. Home-based businesses are one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy. There are currently more than 14 million individuals earning income from out of their own homes. As owners of a majority of home-based businesses, women, in particular, have enjoyed astonishing success in this area. There are currently eight million women-owned U.S. businesses which produce \$2.3 trillion in sales. Women-owned businesses employ one quarter of all U.S. workers. In light of these trends, we need to open more opportunities for home-based and other entrepreneurial ventures to start, grow, and create jobs.

The Home-Based Business Fairness Act targets three particular areas. First, it provides 100 percent deductibility for self-employed health insurance costs. Large corporations are currently allowed to deduct the health insurance costs of all of their employees. This bill will allow the self-employed to take advantage of full deductibility as well. A fair and competitive business environment is impossible as long as large corporations have this unfair advantage.