

date for the aforementioned report is Monday, October 19, 1998, if post-marked by registered or certified mail. If this report is transmitted in any other manner it must be received by the filing date. All Principal Campaign Committees supporting Senate candidates in the 1998 races must file their reports with the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-7116. You may wish to advise your campaign committee personnel of this requirement.

The Public Records office will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 22, to receive these filings. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Public Records on (202) 224-0322.

#### 48 HOUR NOTIFICATIONS

The Office of Public Records will be open on three successive Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 noon until 4:00 p.m. for the purpose of accepting 48 hour notifications of contributions required by the Federal Election Campaign Act, as amended. The dates are October 17th and 18th, October 24th and 25th, October 31st and November 1st. All principal campaign committees supporting Senate candidates in 1998 must notify the Secretary of the Senate regarding contributions of \$1,000 or more if received after the 20th day, but more than 48 hours before the day of the general election. The 48 hour notifications may also be transmitted by facsimile machine. The Office of Public Records FAX number is (202) 224-1851.

#### REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for 1998 third quarter mass mailings is October 26, 1998. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states "none."

Mass mailings registrations, or negative reports, should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-7116.

The Public Records office will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Office of Public Records on (202) 224-0322.

#### WETLANDS WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. 1677, as under the previously agreed unanimous consent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1677) to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the Partnerships for Wildlife Act.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3673

(Purpose: To designate a member of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and to require the Secretary of the Interior to publish a policy for making certain appointments to the Council)

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, Senator CHAFEE has an amendment at the desk. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), for Mr. CHAFEE, proposes an amendment numbered 3673.

Mr. SHELBY. 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:

On page 2, after line 19, add the following:

#### SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 4(a)(1)(D) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4403(a)(1)(D)), during the period of 1999 through 2002, the membership of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council under section 4(a)(1)(D) of that Act shall consist of—

(1) 1 individual who shall be the Group Manager for Conservation Programs of Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and who shall serve for 1 term of 3 years beginning in 1999; and

(2) 2 individuals who shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with section 4 of that Act and who shall each represent a different organization described in section 4(a)(1)(D) of that Act.

(b) PUBLICATION OF POLICY.—Not later than June 30, 1999, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish in the Federal Register, after notice and opportunity for public comment, a policy for making appointments under section 4(a)(1)(D) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4403(a)(1)(D)).

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I am pleased to have an opportunity to talk about S. 1677, the Wetlands and Wildlife Enhancement Act of 1998. This bill will reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)—a law that has played a central role in the conservation of wetlands habitat across the continent.

I am joined by 58 of my colleagues from 42 states in sponsoring S. 1677. There are 35 Republican cosponsors and 23 Democrat cosponsors. This tremendous showing of bipartisan support is a tribute to one of the great success stories in wildlife conservation. NAWCA has helped to bring about the recovery of more than 30 species of ducks, geese, and other waterfowl and migratory birds from their lowest population numbers just 12 years ago to some of their highest population numbers this year.

Why was NAWCA originally enacted? In the early 1980's, we were alarmed to discover that populations of duck and other waterfowl had plummeted precipitously. The numbers were stark: in only ten years, breeding populations of ducks fell an average of 31 percent,

with some species declining by as much as 61 percent. This decline was due to several factors, including loss of habitat and an extended drought in many parts of the U.S.

In 1986, the U.S. and Canada worked cooperatively to develop the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Mexico joined the plan in 1994, so that the entire continent now participates in this effort. The Plan established ambitious goals and innovative strategies for conserving waterfowl habitat.

Under the leadership of Senator George Mitchell, Congress approved NAWCA in 1989, primarily as a vehicle to implement the Plan. The law provides a permanent funding source for wetlands conservation projects, many of which fall under the auspices of the plan.

These sources include Federal appropriations, interest generated from short-term investments on the Pitman-Robertson Fund, money from the Wallop-Breaux Fund, and fines collected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. All told, NAWCA received \$43 million this past year, of which \$11.7 million was appropriated.

Since NAWCA's inception, 575 projects involving more than 800 partners have received \$240 million in Federal funds under NAWCA, matched by more than \$360 million in non-Federal funds. These projects have covered about 3.8 million acres throughout the continent.

These numbers are impressive, but in the scheme of things, NAWCA is a relatively modest law. Even so, it enjoys broad support. This is because, quite simply, NAWCA works. In fact, it works so well that it should serve as a model for other environmental laws. I would like to outline what I believe are the four components of its success—and thus, its popularity.

1. NAWCA focuses on habitat conservation as the key to saving species.

Ducks and other waterfowl are extraordinarily dependent on climate. They need wet weather to thrive. During years of drought, waterfowl populations dwindle. If their habitat vanishes as well, waterfowl populations do not stand a chance of rebounding when the rains return.

The beauty of NAWCA is that it seeks to protect the habitat itself, whether the waterfowl are there or not. That way, when the rains come and the waterfowl return, the habitat is waiting for them. Thus, habitat conservation is the means to achieve the end of waterfowl protection. If waterfowl—or any other creatures threatened with population decline or extinction—are going to survive, they must have available habitat capable of sustaining them.

In focusing on wetlands habitat, NAWCA reaches far beyond waterfowl species. Also sharing the same habitat are migratory birds, raptors, songbirds, shorebirds, and even black bears, otters, and other mammals. Among these