

to hazardous material releases and to establish right-to-know provisions for hundreds of substances identified as extremely hazardous materials plus an additional 1,000 potentially hazardous substances and toxic chemicals; and

Whereas, More than 3,200 businesses and industries within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have been officially identified as being within the SARA Title III planning requirements; and

Whereas, The time frames for reporting chemicals used by facilities under SARA Title III may be considered ineffective at times due to the length of the required reporting period; and

Whereas, Conforming the time frames for reporting Material Safety Data Sheets to State and local officials, mirroring Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements on the reporting of hazardous materials, may lead to an enhanced and more accurate reporting system; and

Whereas, The establishment of Hazardous Material Exposure Parameters around hazardous material facilities and the requirement of direct reporting to residences and businesses within these parameters may lead to the increased safety of our communities; therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania respectfully request that the Congress of the United States pursue amendments to SARA Title III to ensure higher levels of safety for communities which have hazardous material facilities within their borders; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 623. A bill to amend Public Law 89-108 to increase authorization levels for State and Indian tribal, municipal, rural, and industrial water supplies, to meet current and future water quantity and quality needs of the Red River Valley, to deauthorize certain project features and irrigation service areas, to enhance natural resources and fish and wildlife habitat, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-203).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1052. A bill to implement further the Act (Public Law 94-241) approving the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-204).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HOLLINGS (for himself and Mr. THURMOND):

S. 1836. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Alabama; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 1837. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide low-income medicare beneficiaries with medical assistance for out-of-pocket expenditures for out-patient prescription drugs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WELLSTONE:

S. 1838. A bill to provide that certain income derived from an agreement between the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians and the State of Minnesota shall not be considered income for purposes of Federal assistance eligibility; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

S. 1839. A bill to provide that land which is owned by the Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota but which is not held in trust by the United States for the Community may be leased or transferred by the Community without further approval by the United States; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ABRAHAM:

S. Res. 212. A resolution to designate August 1, 2000, as "National Relatives as Parents Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):

S. Res. 213. A resolution to authorize testimony, document production, and representation of employees in the Senate in *Bonnie Mendelson v. Delaware River and Bay Authority*; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WELLSTONE:

S. 1838. A bill to provide that certain income derived from an agreement between the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians and the State of Minnesota shall not be considered income for purposes of Federal assistance eligibility; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

INCOME EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

• Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I am introducing today legislation of great importance to two tribes in Minnesota, the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa and the Grand Portage Band of Chippewa. This bill would exempt income derived from an agreement between the two bands and the State of Minnesota from being considered as income for purposes of Federal assistance eligibility when the funds from the agreement are distributed to tribal members.

Under current law, most payments to Indians derived from trust resources are exempt from consideration as income or resources for the purposes of determining federal benefits under various Federal or federally assisted programs. Regulations promulgated by various Federal agencies reflect the statutory exemptions for income derived from interests of individual Indians in trust or restricted lands and from payments distributed to tribal members as the result of Indian claims

awards. This legislation is to accord similar treatment to payments made to the approximately 2,700 members of the Bois Forte Band and the 790 members of the Grand Portage Band.

In 1988 the two bands entered into an agreement with the state of Minnesota whereby the State agreed to make an annual payment to the bands in exchange for the bands' restriction of their members' hunting and fishing rights. These rights are guaranteed by the treaty of September 30, 1854. From that payment, the Tribal Councils of the Bands make small annual payments to their members. The Bois Forte Band pays each of its members \$500 per year, for example. The shares of minors are paid into a trust fund that cannot and disbursed until the minor reaches the age of 18. The shares of adults are paid directly to them.

These payments are intended to compensate the band members for a Federal treaty right that they have elected to forgo in return for these funds. As a result, this constitutes income which is derived from a trust resource. The intent of the Federal law is that such funds—up to a certain level, are not treated as income for purposes of Federal benefit eligibility. This is in recognition of the special status of Indian tribes within the United States, and the trust relationship that the Federal Government maintains to this day. However, while these payments clearly fall within the intent Federal law to protect trust resources, the current statute does not encompass these payments.

The result is that for a small number of band members, approximately 10 percent of the Bois Forte band and currently no members of the Grand Portage Band, this income is of no real benefit because it reduces or eliminates their public assistance payment. These members are all extremely poor, elderly, or disabled. Mr. President, these are people who can least afford to bear the brunt of this loophole in Federal law.

Additionally, Mr. President, these band members see a spike in their income—an extremely small spike mind you—in 1 month out of the year. Does it serve any public purpose to kick them off of Federal assistance in that 1 month, only to require them to reapply in the following month? Their circumstances are not changed by this payment. These funds will not lift anyone out of poverty, they do not replace an income lost to disability or age.

This bill will ensure that members of the Bois Forte and Grand Portage Bands receive fair—though small—compensation for their foregone treaty rights. It is a question of simple equity and I urge my colleagues to support it. •

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 1837. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide low-income Medicare beneficiaries with medical assistance for out-of-pocket