

“(A) metabolic engineering of biological systems (including the safe use of genetically modified crops) to produce novel products, especially commodity products, or to increase product selectivity and tolerance, with a research priority on the development of biobased industrial products that can compete in performance and cost with fossil-based products;

“(B) catalytic processing to convert intermediates of biomass processing into products of interest;

“(C) separation technologies for cost-effective product recovery and purification;

“(D) approaches other than metabolic engineering and catalytic conversion of intermediates of biomass processing;

“(E) advanced biomass gasification technologies, including coproduction of power and heat as an integrated component of biomass processing, with the possibility of generating excess electricity for sale; and

“(F) related research in advanced turbine and stationary fuel cell technology for production of electricity from biomass; and

“(3) research aimed at ensuring the environmental performance and economic viability of biobased industrial products and their raw material input of biomass when considered as an integrated system, including research on—

“(A) the analysis of, and strategies to enhance, the environmental performance and sustainability of biobased industrial products, including research on—

“(i) accurate measurement and analysis of greenhouse gas emissions, carbon sequestration, and carbon cycling in relation to the life cycle of biobased industrial products and feedstocks with respect to other alternatives;

“(ii) evaluation of current and future biomass resource availability;

“(iii) development and analysis of land management practices and alternative biomass cropping systems that ensure the environmental performance and sustainability of biomass production and harvesting;

“(iv) land, air, water, and biodiversity impacts of large-scale biomass production, processing, and use of biobased industrial products relative to other alternatives; and

“(v) biomass gasification and combustion to produce electricity;

“(B) the analysis of, and strategies to enhance, the economic viability of biobased industrial products, including research on—

“(i) the cost of the required process technology;

“(ii) the impact of coproducts, including food, animal feed, and fiber, on biobased industrial product price and large-scale economic viability; and

“(iii) interactions between an emergent biomass refining industry and the petrochemical refining infrastructure; and

“(C) the field and laboratory research related to feedstock production with the interrelated goals of enhancing the sustainability, increasing productivity, and decreasing the cost of biomass processing, including research on—

“(i) altering biomass to make biomass easier and less expensive to process;

“(ii) existing and new agricultural and energy crops that provide a sustainable resource for conversion to biobased industrial products while simultaneously serving as a source for coproducts such as food, animal feed, and fiber;

“(iii) improved technologies for harvest, collection, transport, storage, and handling of crop and residue feedstocks; and

“(iv) development of economically viable cropping systems that improve the conservation and restoration of marginal land; or

“(4) Any research and development in technologies or processes determined by the Sec-

retary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Energy, acting through their respective points of contact and in consultation with the Board, to be consistent with the purposes described in subsection (b) and priorities described in subsection (c)(2)(B).

“(e) TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION TRANSFER TO AGRICULTURAL USERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service and the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service shall ensure that applicable research results and technologies from the Initiative are adapted, made available, and disseminated through their respective Services, as appropriate.

“(2) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this title, the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service and the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service shall report to the committees of Congress with jurisdiction over the Initiative on the activities conducted by the Services under this subsection.

“(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to funding provided for biomass research and development under the general authority of the Secretary of Energy to conduct research and development and demonstration programs (which may also be used to carry out this title), there are also authorized to be appropriated \$49,000,000 to the Department of Agriculture for each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2005 to carry out this title.

“SEC. 8. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND FUNDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—To the extent administrative support and funds are not provided by other agencies under subsection (b), the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture may provide such administrative support and funds of the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture to the Board and the Advisory Committee as are necessary to enable the Board and the Advisory Committee to carry out this title.

“(b) OTHER AGENCIES.—The heads of the agencies referred to, or appointed under paragraphs (3) and (4) of section 5(b) may, and are encouraged to, provide administrative support and funds of their respective agencies to the Board and the Advisory Committee.

“SEC. 9. REPORTS.

“For each fiscal year that funds are made available to carry out this title, the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Energy shall jointly transmit to Congress a detailed report on—

“(1) the status and progress of the Initiative, including a certification from the Board that funds authorized for the Initiative and distributed and used in a manner that is consistent with the goals of the Initiative; and

“(2) the general status of cooperation and research efforts carried out by each Secretary with respect to sustainable fuels, chemicals, and electricity derived from biomass, including a certification from the Board that the points of contact are funding proposals that are selected on the basis of merit, as determined by an independent panel of scientific and technical peers.

“SEC. 10. SUNSET.

“This Act and the authority conferred by this Act shall terminate on December 31, 2005.

“TITLE II—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ETHANOL RESEARCH PILOT PLANT

“There are authorized to be appropriated to construct a Department of Agriculture corn-based ethanol research pilot plant a total of \$14,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 and subsequent fiscal years.”.

SEC. 2. TITLE.

Amend the title as to read: “To authorize research to promote the conversion of biomass into biobased industrial products, and for other purposes.”

## NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to consider the President's proposed FY 2001 budget for the U.S. Forest Service. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 29, 2000, beginning at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Those who wish to submit written statements, should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information, please call Mark Rey, Professional Staff Member, at (202) 224-2878.

## AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 29, 2000, in open session, to receive testimony from the unified commanders on their military strategy and operational requirements in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2001 and the future years defense program.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 29, 2000, to conduct a hearing on “the financial marketplace of the future.”

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 29, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct an oversight hearing. The committee will consider the President's proposed budget for FY2001 for the U.S. Forest Service.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the