

Navy nominations beginning David R. Allison, and ending Steve R. Wilkinson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 7, 2000.

Navy nominations beginning Raquel C. Bono, and ending Mil A. Yi, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 8, 2000.

Navy nomination of Rabon E. Cooke, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 9, 2000.

Navy nomination of Amy J. Potts, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of February 9, 2000.

STATEMENT ON THE NOMINATION OF SYLVIA V. BACA

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I am very pleased today that the Senate has confirmed New Mexican Sylvia Baca for Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management. I have been working hard to see this day, and I am glad the Senate has finally confirmed this worthy individual.

Ms. Baca is a native New Mexican who has worked for the Department of Interior for over four years, and has been Acting Assistant Secretary since November of 1998. Since January of 1995, she served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.

Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management has direct supervisory responsibility for three principal bureaus of the Department of the Interior: The Bureau of Land Management, the Minerals Management Service, and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. In 1997, she served as Acting Director for the Bureau of Land Management. In such capacity, she was responsible for direct management of 10,000 employees, a budget of \$1.2 billion, and the maintenance of 270 million acres of public lands and 570 million acres of subsurface minerals.

Ms. Baca previously served the state of New Mexico with distinction as a Senior Fiscal Analyst for the state Legislative Finance Committee for five years. Ms. Baca served as Director of Finance and Management for the City of Albuquerque immediately before leaving for Washington, D.C. Some of you may know that I served as what was then the equivalent of Mayor of Albuquerque, New Mexico's largest city. I can assert that administering the operating budget and administering city employees is a big job.

Sylvia Baca has a tremendous tie to the land. Sylvia, whose New Mexico ranching family history dates back to Spanish colonial times, is one of the many distinguished New Mexicans who have served the Interior Department. I am sure she will continue to work with distinction and serve well managing our federal public lands. Based upon her experience and commitment, I trust she will do a good job for the people of the United States. She has demonstrated that she has the administrative skills and experience needed to do this job well.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

### NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE FUELS AND CHEMICALS ACT OF 1999

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 310, S. 935.

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

The clerk will state the bill by title. The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 935) to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to authorize research to promote the conversion of biomass into biobased industrial products, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, with an amendment to strike all after enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Sustainable Fuels and Chemicals Act of 1999".

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) conversion of biomass into biobased industrial products offers outstanding potential for benefit to the national interest through improved strategic security and balance of payments, healthier rural economies, improved environmental quality, near-zero net greenhouse gas emissions, technology export, and sustainable resource supply;

(2)(A) biomass is widely available at prices that are competitive with low cost petroleum; and

(B) the key technical challenges to be overcome in order for biobased industrial products to be cost competitive are finding new technology and reducing the cost of technology for converting biomass into desired biobased industrial products;

(3) biobased fuels, such as ethanol, have the clear potential to be sustainable, low cost, and high performance fuels that are compatible with both current and future transportation systems and provide near zero net greenhouse gas emissions;

(4) biobased chemicals—

(A) can provide functional replacements for essentially all organic chemicals that are currently derived from petroleum; and

(B) have the clear potential for environmentally benign product life cycles;

(5) biobased power can provide environmental benefits, promote rural economic development, and diversify energy resource options;

(6) many biomass feedstocks suitable for industrial processing show the clear potential for sustainable production, in some cases resulting in improved soil fertility and carbon sequestration;

(7)(A) grain processing mills are biorefineries that produce a diversity of useful food, chemical, feed, and fuel products; and

(B) technologies that result in further diversification of the range of value-added biobased industrial products can meet a key need for the grain processing industry;

(8)(A) cellulosic feedstocks are attractive because of their low cost and widespread availability; and

(B) research resulting in cost-effective technology to overcome the recalcitrance of cellu-

losic biomass would allow biorefineries to produce fuels and bulk chemicals on a very large scale, with a commensurately large realization of the benefit described in paragraph (1);

(9) research into the fundamentals to understand important mechanisms of biomass conversion can be expected to accelerate the application and advancement of biomass processing technology by—

(A) increasing the confidence and speed with which new technologies can be scaled up; and

(B) giving rise to processing innovations based on new knowledge;

(10) the added utility of biobased industrial products developed through improvements in processing technology would encourage the design of feedstocks that would meet future needs more effectively;

(11) the creation of value-added biobased industrial products would create new jobs in construction, manufacturing, and distribution, as well as new higher-valued exports of products and technology;

(12)(A) because of the relatively short-term time horizon characteristic of private sector investments, and because many benefits of biomass processing are in the national interest, it is appropriate for the Federal Government to provide precommercial investment in fundamental research and research-driven innovation in the biomass processing area; and

(B) such an investment would provide a valuable complement to ongoing and past governmental support in the biomass processing area; and

(13) several prominent studies, including studies by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and the National Research Council—

(A) support the potential for large research-driven advances in technologies for production of biobased industrial products as well as associated benefits; and

(B) document the need for a focused, integrated, and innovation-driven research effort to provide the appropriate progress in a timely manner.

#### SEC. 3. CONVERSION OF BIOMASS INTO BIOBASED INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS.

The National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### "Subtitle N—Conversion of Biomass Into Biobased Industrial Products

#### "SEC. 1490. DEFINITIONS.

"In this subtitle:

"(1) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—The term 'Advisory Committee' means the Sustainable Fuels and Chemicals Technical Advisory Committee established by section 1490C.

"(2) BIOBASED INDUSTRIAL PRODUCT.—The term 'biobased industrial product' means any power, fuel, feed, chemical product, or other consumer good derived from biomass.

"(3) BIOMASS.—The term 'biomass' means any organic matter that is available on a renewable or recurring basis (excluding old growth timber), including dedicated energy crops and trees, wood and wood residues, plants (including aquatic plants), grasses, agricultural crops, residues, fibers, and animal wastes and other waste materials.

"(4) BOARD.—The term 'Board' means the Sustainable Fuels and Chemicals Board established by section 1490B.

"(5) INITIATIVE.—The term 'Initiative' means the Sustainable Fuels and Chemicals Research Initiative established under section 1490D.

"(6) POINT OF CONTACT.—The term 'point of contact' means a point of contact designated under section 1490A(d).

"(7) PROCESSING.—The term 'processing' means the derivation of biobased industrial products from biomass, including—

"(A) feedstock production;

"(B) harvest and handling;