

and to each member of the New Hampshire congressional delegation.

POM-546. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act Task Force; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

Whereas, the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA), known as the "Breaux Act" sponsored by Senator John Breaux, provides approximately \$40 million per year in federal funding for the Louisiana wetlands protection and restoration projects approved by the CWPPRA Task Force; and

Whereas, Louisiana's barrier islands are the primary line of defense against waves from the Gulf of Mexico and protect our extensive estuarine system and the mainland marshes; and

Whereas, barrier islands help keep one of the nation's most productive fisheries vibrant, provide habitat to wildlife and furnish storm protection for homes, roads, waterways, and oil industry infrastructure; and

Whereas, these barrier islands provide valuable habitat for migratory birds, nesting shorebirds and waterfowl, and aquatic nursery habitats for fish and shellfish; and

Whereas, restoration is critical to sustaining the barrier islands and reducing mainland marsh loss; and

Whereas, the erosion and breaching of barrier islands reduces their effectiveness in preventing storm surges from reaching mainland marshes and results in increased wave damage to bay marshes; and

Whereas, Louisiana, which contains forty percent of the wetlands in the forty-eight contiguous states, is losing between twenty-five and thirty-five square miles of valuable marine habitat a year, mainly due to erosion, subsidence, and other forces; and

Whereas, the barrier islands are estimated to disappear by about 2018 if nothing is done; and

Whereas, coastal restoration projects are selected by the CWPPRA Task Force based upon the project's overall impact on coastal restoration; and

Whereas, the current selection process does not adequately appreciate the full repercussions of barrier island erosion and loss on the entire coastline; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States and urges the CWPPRA Task Force to support modifying the selection process for projects under the Breaux Act to consider other benefits that barrier island restoration projects provide in addition to vegetated wetland benefits; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of the Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and to the chairman of the CWPPRA Task Force.

POM-547. A resolution adopted by the House of the General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island relative to gasoline; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE RESOLUTION

Whereas, The 1990 amendments to the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) mandated the addition of oxygenates in reformulated gasoline (RFG) at a minimum of 2% of content by weight to reduce the concentration of various types of air contaminants, including ozone and carbon monoxide, in regions of the country exceeding National Ambient Air

Quality Standards, and states that opted into the program; and

Whereas, Methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MtBE), the most commonly used gasoline oxygenate in the United States and Rhode Island, is being detected in surface and groundwater supplies throughout the United States due to leaking underground petroleum storage tanks, spills, and other accidental discharges; and

Whereas, Because MtBE is highly soluble in water, spills and leaks involving MtBE-laden gasoline are considerably more expensive and difficult to remediate than those involving conventional gasoline; and

Whereas, A "Blue Ribbon Panel" of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency called for the elimination of the federal oxygenate requirement and for the reduction of the use of MtBE in gasoline because of public health concerns associated with MtBE in water supplies; and

Whereas, The prescriptive requirements in the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments for oxygenate content restrict the State's ability to address groundwater contamination and air quality issues: Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations respectfully urges and requests that the United States Congress remove the requirement in the Clean Air Act for 2% of content by weight oxygenate in reformulated gasoline while maintaining the toxic emissions reductions benefits achieved to date by the RFG program so that additional alternate fuel mixtures may be available for use in Rhode Island; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States and to each member of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.

POM-548. A resolution by the Legislature of the State of New York relative to the Great Lakes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

Whereas, Water is a critical resource that is essential for all forms of life and for a broad range of economic and social activities; and

Whereas, The Great Lakes support 33 million people as well as a diversity of the plant and animal populations; and

Whereas, The Great Lakes contain roughly 20% of the world's freshwater and 95% of the freshwater of the United States; and

Whereas, The Great Lakes are predominantly non-renewable resources with approximately only 1% of their water renewed annually by precipitation, surface water runoff and inflow from groundwater sources; and

Whereas, The Great Lakes Basin is an integrated and fragile ecosystem with its surface and groundwater resources a part of a single hydrologic system, which should be dealt with as a whole in ways that take into account water quantity, water quality and ecosystem integrity; and

Whereas, Sound science must be the basis for water resource management policies and strategies; and

Whereas, Scientific information supports the conclusion that a relatively small volume of water permanently removed from sensitive habits may have grave ecological consequences; and

Whereas, Single and cumulative bulk removals of water from drainable basins such as interbasin transfers, reduce the resiliency of a system and its capacity to cope with fu-

ture, unpredictable stresses, including potential introduction of non-native species and diseases to receiving waters; and

Whereas, There is uncertainty about the availability of Great Lakes water in the future in light of previous variations in climatic conditions, climate change, demands on water—cautions should be used in managing water to protect the resource for the future; and

Whereas, A report from The International Joint Commission, released March 15, 2000, recommends that Canadian and U.S. federal, provincial and state governments should not permit the removal of water from the Great Lakes Basin unless the proponent can demonstrate that the removal will not endanger the integrity of the Great Lakes Ecosystem; and

Whereas, Canada has already introduced legislation to amend the Boundary Waters Treaty Act to prohibit bulk water withdrawals from the Great Lakes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to urge the New York State Congressional Delegation to effectuate an amendment to the Boundary Waters Treaty Act to prohibit bulk water withdrawals from the Great Lakes to preserve the integrity and environmental stability of the Great lakes; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to each member of the United States Congressional Delegation of the State of New York; to the Vice President of the United States in his capacity as President of the United States Senate; to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; to the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives; to the Secretary of the United States Senate; and to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. HELMS, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

S. 2844: An original bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize the provision of assistance to increase the availability of credit to microenterprises lacking full access to credit, to establish a Microfinance Loan Facility, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-335).

S. 2845: An original bill to authorize additional assistance to countries with large populations having HIV/AIDS, to authorize assistance for tuberculosis prevention, treatment, control, and elimination, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-336).

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2712: A bill to amend chapter 35 of title 31, United States Code, to authorize the consolidation of certain financial and performance management reports required of Federal agencies, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-337).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HELMS:

S. 2844. An original bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize the provision of assistance to increase the availability of credit to microenterprises lacking