

So you can see why I believe, as well as I am sure almost all Tennesseans believe, it is critically important to renew this hydroelectric license for another 40 years and keep these good jobs in the Tennessee Valley. Without these four dams providing low-cost reliable power, these jobs would be gone overnight, probably to Alcoa plants in Quebec or Iceland where the hydroelectric power is plentiful and cheap.

The second reason and the final reason this settlement agreement has attracted such widespread interest is because of the recreation opportunities it will provide.

Tapoco is the name of the Alcoa subsidiary that owns the four dams I described along this Little Tennessee River. The acres contained within the Tapoco project are sandwiched between nearly 10,000 acres of nonproject lands owned by Alcoa. These nonproject lands are the 10,000 acres in green here. This is in the area I mentioned of the Great Smokies, the Cherokee National Forest, the Nantahala National Forest, the Citico Creek, and Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Wilderness Areas.

A critical requirement in obtaining this 40-year license renewal is this settlement agreement negotiated by and with a large group of interested relicensing stakeholders. These stakeholders include the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the eastern band of Cherokees, State agencies representing Tennessee and North Carolina, numerous non-governmental organizations, local government, homeowners associations, and individual citizens.

They began to discuss all of this 7 years ago. It has taken all of that time to work this out.

In order to make this effective, however, Congress must authorize the land exchanges in the settlement agreement. The terms and conditions under the settlement agreement will then become terms and conditions under Alcoa's hydroelectric license.

In order for the Federal Electric Regulatory Commission to have legal authority to put the settlement agreement terms and conditions in the license, legislation from Congress is required prior to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission making a relicensing decision in August of 2004.

Much of the settlement agreement is focused on the transfer of land interests between the Great Smoky Mountains, the U.S. Forest Service, and Alcoa.

Let me see if I can describe it simply.

The first part of the land swap is between the Great Smokies National Park and Alcoa. The Great Smokies will transfer 100 acres of flood areas of land in exchange for 186 acres of biologically sensitive acreage that Alcoa owns.

All of us growing up always heard about people from Florida coming up and wanting to buy land and we would sell them land that was flooded, or they would sell us land that was flood-

ed. But basically, flooded land—100 acres—is being swapped for 186 acres of land that is a biologically diverse area, and this will go into the Great Smoky Mountain National Park.

In fact, it was already within the legislative boundaries. But I suppose the park ran out of money back in the 1930s and couldn't buy it.

The second component is a big tract of land—6,000 acres between the Smokies and the Cherokee National Forest.

After a complicated set of arrangements, what can happen is this:

It involves the Nature Conservancy, but this legislation authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to purchase this land at a reasonable value from the Nature Conservancy after Alcoa gives it to the Nature Conservancy.

The long and short of it will be that after 3 years, hopefully the Great Smokies will be 6,000 acres larger and immediately people who live in this region will be able to enjoy this 6,000 acres.

There is one other part to this. There is a 4,000-acre tract over here. The Nature Conservancy will own this under the agreement, but it will also be open to outdoor recreation, to hunters, and to fishermen.

All of this is part of Alcoa's relicensing agreement. The people who work here get the jobs. Everybody who lives here gets to enjoy a national park with 6,000 more acres and an area that includes 4,000 more acres.

That is the legislation I have introduced today. The legislation will allow the settlement agreement worked on for 7 years to be implemented and for Alcoa's relicensing process at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to proceed.

Alcoa, American Rivers, Blount County, city of Alcoa, city of Maryville, eastern band of Cherokee Indians, Great Smoky Mountains National Park—I say particularly the Nature Conservancy and the National Parks Conservation Association—thank you for your hard work.

Also, North Carolina Department of Environment and Conservation, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Tennessee Clean Water Network, and various other organizations I want to mention have also been a part of this effort.

It gives me a great deal of personal pleasure to be able to come to the floor and compliment the hard work of others over the last 7 years.

The hard work of the Aluminum Company of America, the creativeness and reasonableness of the conservation organizations and communities will result in 2,000 good jobs being saved and all of us being able to enjoy up to 10,000 more acres adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, I overheard my good friend from east Tennessee as he spoke about life in the Great Smoky Mountains and the bill that he is presenting today. Knowing his passion for east Tennessee—not

just east Tennessee but the whole State of Tennessee and that whole region—gives all of us great reason to examine exactly what he is proposing because I know what he is doing is not just right for that part of the country but for the country as a whole from a preservation and protection standpoint.

It is kind of interesting as I sat there and listened to him talk about the number of agencies and entities he has brought together in this one proposal and has everybody in the core. The Senator, obviously, has done an awful lot of work over the last year and a half that he served in the Senate to bring this coalition together in support of that project.

I wish to take the opportunity as somebody who spent a large part of my life in the mountains of east Tennessee to commend the Senator. I appreciate all of his hard work, his dedication, and the proposal he came up with relative to the Alcoa project.

I told him I feel better now about buying all of that aluminum foil over the years because I know it went to send him to Vanderbilt. What a great asset he is to Vanderbilt and to the University of Tennessee and now to the Senate.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 340—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD DESIGNATE SEPTEMBER 26, 2004, AS “NATIONAL GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY”

Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. BURNS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 340

Whereas our society has developed highly effective means of speedy communication around the world, but has failed to ensure meaningful communication among people living across the globe, or even across the street, from one another;

Whereas the endurance of human values and consideration for others are critical to the survival of civilization; and

Whereas being good neighbors to those around us is the first step toward human understanding: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,*

**SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL GOOD NEIGHBOR DAY.**

(a) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the President should designate September 26, 2004, as “National Good Neighbor Day”.

(b) PROCLAMATION.—The Senate requests the President to issue a proclamation—

(1) designating September 26, 2004, as “National Good Neighbor Day”; and

(2) calling on the people of the United States and interested groups and organizations to observe “National Good Neighbor Day” with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Kevin