

under this Act, including a recommendation on whether the reduced royalty rate for potassium from sylvite should apply after the end of the 5-year period.

TITLE VII—SODA ASH ROYALTY REDUCTION

SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Soda Ash Royalty Reduction Act of 2004".

SEC. 702. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The combination of global competitive pressures, flat domestic demand, and spiraling costs of production threaten the future of the United States soda ash industry.

(2) Despite booming world demand, growth in United States exports of soda ash since 1997 has been flat, with most of the world's largest markets for such growth, including Brazil, the People's Republic of China, India, the countries of eastern Europe, and the Republic of South Africa, have been closed by protectionist policies.

(3) The People's Republic of China is the prime competitor of the United States in soda ash production, and recently supplanted the United States as the largest producer of soda ash in the world.

(4) Over 700 jobs have been lost in the United States soda ash industry since the Department of the Interior increased the royalty rate on soda ash produced on Federal land, in 1996.

(5) Reduction of the royalty rate on soda ash produced on Federal land will provide needed relief to the United States soda ash industry and allow it to increase export growth and competitiveness in emerging world markets, and create new jobs in the United States.

SEC. 703. REDUCTION IN ROYALTY RATE ON SODA ASH.

Notwithstanding section 102(a)(9) of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701(a)(9)), section 24 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 262), and the terms of any lease under that Act, the royalty rate on the quantity or gross value of the output of sodium compounds and related products at the point of shipment to market from Federal land in the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act shall be 2 percent.

SEC. 704. STUDY.

After the end of the 4-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, and before the end of the 5-year period beginning on that date, the Secretary of the Interior shall report to the Congress on the effects of the royalty reduction under this Act, including—

(1) the amount of sodium compounds and related products at the point of shipment to market from Federal land during that 4-year period;

(2) the number of jobs that have been created or maintained during the royalty reduction period;

(3) the total amount of royalty paid to the United States on the quantity or gross value of the output of sodium compounds and related products at the point of shipment to market produced during that 4-year period, and the portion of such royalty paid to States; and

(4) a recommendation of whether the reduced royalty rate should apply after the end of the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

Amend the title so as to read "An Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to the Edward H. McDaniel American Legion Post No. 22 in Pahrump, Nevada, for the construction of a post building and memorial park for use by the American Legion, other veterans' groups, and the local community, and for other purposes."

Mr. ALEXANDER. I ask unanimous consent the Senate concur in the House amendment, with an amendment which is at the desk, concur in the House amendment to the title, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table en bloc,

and any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 4085) was agreed to.

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendment.")

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following revision transmitted to the Senate on December 7, 2004, by the President of the United States: 1995 Revision of Radio Regulations (Treaty Document No. 108-28).

I further ask that the revision be considered as having been read the first time, that it be referred with accompanying papers to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed, and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

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

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, I transmit herewith the 1995 Revision of the Radio Regulations, with appendices, signed by the United States at Geneva on November 17, 1995 (the "1995 Revision"), together with declarations and reservations of the United States as contained in the final Acts of the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-95). I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State concerning these revisions.

The 1995 Revision, which was adopted at WRC-95, constitutes a revision of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Radio Regulations, to which the United States is a party. It provides for the simplification of the Radio Regulations, the introduction of new global mobile-satellite services, and new regulatory provisions both for non-geostationary satellites operating in the same frequency bands as geostationary satellites and for other new space services that share spectrum with the space research and terrestrial services.

Subject to the U.S. declarations and reservations mentioned above, I believe the United States should become a party to the 1995 Revision, which will facilitate the development of mobile-satellite and non-geostationary satellite orbit communication services by U.S. Government and industry, it is my hope that the Senate will take early action on this matter and give its advice and consent to ratification.

GEORGE W. BUSH,

The White House, December 7, 2004.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

FAREWELL TO ACTING SECRETARY OF THE ARMY LES BROWNLEE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to honor a distinguished American for his tireless, dedicated service to the U.S. Army, the U.S. Senate, and the American people. After more than four decades of national service, Acting Secretary of the Army Less Brownlee is resigning his post as Under Secretary of the Army.

Secretary Brownlee is a highly decorated veteran. He has earned the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and a Purple Heart during his two tours of duty in Vietnam and over 22 years on active duty.

He has also served this body with distinction for 18 years as a Hill staff member, reaching the post of staff director for the Armed Services Committee. During his time on the committee, Secretary Brownlee was the committee's principal professional staff member responsible for Army and Marine Corps programs, Special Operations Forces, and drug interdiction policy and support. In addition, he was deeply involved in policies and programs ranging from ballistic missile defense and weapons programs to strategic deterrence and naval strategy.

Most recently, during his 18 months as Acting Secretary of the Army, Secretary Brownlee has been responsible for managing the Army's \$80 billion annual budget and more than 1.3 million Active Duty, National Guard, Army Reserve, and civilian personnel. As a part of this duty, Secretary Brownlee has overseen recruiting, organizing, supplying, equipping, training, and mobilization efforts.

In addition, during his tenure, the Army began the process of an extraordinary transformation to meet the threats and challenges of the 21st century. Most notably, the Army has borne the brunt of the global war on terrorism, making all Americans proud of its victories and achievements in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other far-off places around the globe.

Throughout these challenging times for the Nation and our Armed Forces, Secretary Brownlee has consistently provided strong, steady leadership for the Army as it adapts and prepares for the future. His service as Acting Secretary of the Army will undoubtedly have a profound impact on our fighting men and women and will ensure that the Army remains the world's finest fighting force for years to come.

I congratulate Secretary Brownlee on a brilliant career. I thank him for his