

District of the Virgin Islands; Stephen Joseph Murphy III, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan; Gretchen C.F. Shappert, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina; Rachel Brand, to be an Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy; Alice S. Fisher, to be an Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division; and Regina B. Schofield, to be an Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs.

II. Bills: S. 852, A bill to Create a Fair and Efficient System to Resolve Claims of Victims for Bodily Injury Caused by Asbestos Exposure, and for Other Purposes. [SPECTER, LEAHY, HATCH, FEINSTEIN, GRASSLEY, DEWINE, GRAHAM].

III. Matters: Senate Judiciary Committee Rules.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that The Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during The session of The Senate on Thursday, May 26, 2005, for a committee hearing titled "Battling The Backlog: Challenges Facing The VA Claims Adjudication and Appeal Process".

The hearing will take place in Room 418 of the Russell Senate Office Building at 2 p.m.

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

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations be authorized to meet on Thursday, May 26, 2005, at 9 a.m., for a hearing entitled "The Container Security Initiative and The Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism: Securing The Global Supply Chain or Trojan Horse?"

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, pursuant to Rule 26.5(a) of The Standing Rules of The Senate, that The Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet after conclusion of the first two hours after the meeting of The Senate commences on May 26, 2005.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that The Subcommittee on Aviation be authorized to meet on Thursday, May 26, 2005, at 10 a.m. on Aviation Capacity and Congestion Challenge-Summer 2005 and Future Demand.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate

Change, and Nuclear Safety be authorized to meet on Thursday, May 26, 2005 at 9 a.m. to conduct an oversight hearing on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The hearing will be held in SD 406.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security be authorized to meet on Thursday, May 26, 2005, at 2:30 p.m., for a hearing regarding "An Assessment of Federal Funding for Private Research and Development."

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION, BORDER SECURITY AND CITIZENSHIP

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "The Need for Comprehensive Immigration Reform: Serving Our National Economy" on Thursday, May 26, 2005, at 2:30 p.m. in SD-226.

Witness List

Panel I: The Honorable Steven Law, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC.

Panel II: Tom Donahue, President and CEO, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Washington, DC; Dan Griswold, Director of the Center for Trade Policy Studies, The CATO Institute, Washington, DC; and Douglas S. Massey, Ph.D., Professor, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ryon Ryu with Senator HAGEL's staff be granted the privilege of the floor during today's session.

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

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on the bill (H.R. 3) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

*Resolved*, That the House disagree to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3) entitled "An Act to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes," and ask a conference with the Senate

on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I move that the Senate insist on its amendment, agree to the request for a conference, and the Chair appoint conferees, with a ratio of 16 to 14, with the names submitted at the desk.

The motion was agreed to, and the Presiding Officer appointed Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BOND, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. CHAFEE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. THUNE, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. VITTER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HATCH, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. LOTT, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. REED, Mr. JOHNSON conferees on the part of the Senate.

SMALL BUSINESS ACT

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to address the consideration of H.R. 3, the Highway bill, in conference between the Senate and the House, and to engage the majority leader and Chairman INHOFE in a colloquy. It has come to my attention that the version of H.R. 3 passed by the House contains changes to the Small Business Act, which is under the exclusive jurisdiction of the small business committees in both chambers. Section 1821 of H.R. 3 as passed by the House would extend the benefits of the Historically Underutilized Business, HUBZone, program to non-metropolitan areas designated as Difficult Development Areas, DDAs, by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, but only if these DDAs are located in states and territories outside the continental United States. The HUBZone program exists to generate market-based development solutions in economically distressed areas by providing federal contracting advantages to small businesses which locate in HUBZones and employ HUB Zone residents.

The HUBZone contracting program is codified in the Small Business Act and is administered by the Office of Government Contracting and Business Development of the Small Business Administration. While the HUBZone provision was not included in the Senate version of H.R. 3, had the provision in the House bill proceeded through the Senate committee process, I would have certainly exercised my prerogatives as the Committee Chair.

Although I am not requesting a formal appointment as a conferee, I would like to ask my distinguished colleagues, the majority leader and the chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, to commit that no change to the Small Business Act or any program relating to the SBA will be negotiated or agreed to in the Highway bill conference without my consent as the Chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.