

only approximately 5 percent of households today;

Whereas, at the current pace, next-generation broadband networks will not be universally available in the United States for more than 20 years, and, as a result—

(1) households in the United States will not have access to critical information, services, and applications;

(2) entrepreneurs and businesses in the United States will be constrained in developing new products and services that are accessed over the Internet and broadband networks; and

(3) the overall welfare and economy of the United States will suffer substantially; and

Whereas key leaders and organizations in the private sector have called recently for the immediate development of a national next-generation broadband network policy and strategy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) establishes a national next-generation broadband network goal to bring, by 2015, universal and affordable access to networks with the capability of transmitting data at 100 megabits per second, bidirectionally, so that households, businesses, and government offices in the United States can access the Internet and, via direct connections, access other households, businesses, and government offices; and

(2) directs the relevant congressional committees to work with the President—

(A) to develop a strategy to achieve the national next-generation broadband network goal; and

(B) to begin, by the end of 2007, to enact specific legislation and adopt policies to implement this strategy.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an important policy matter facing our Nation. Many of us in this body have for years called for a national broadband policy. Today, I am formally proposing the establishment of that national policy. I will propose that we take two steps: establish a goal, and develop a strategy to meet the goal.

Although broadband services are expanding and more consumers are subscribing to broadband, our Nation is falling behind the rest of the world in the deployment next generation broadband infrastructure. Broadband as we know it will be obsolete and we must begin to examine how the United States can remain a leader in communications technology. As a nation, we must have a thoughtful national policy to make sure all Americans have the communications infrastructure that they need to learn and compete in a global environment.

A national broadband policy is critical to the future of our country. Having a very robust broadband network available to all Americans would provide a tremendous social and economic benefit. The latest phrase in the broadband lexicon is “exaflood.” It refers to the flood of new, high bandwidth applications that are now available to those with a fast connection. The number of broadband applications now available is almost unimaginable.

In the last year, social networking Web sites, such as YouTube and MySpace, have become integral parts of our society. But, expanded connectivity would allow doctors to di-

agnose remotely medical conditions, music students to study with an instructor hundreds of miles away, and scientists to monitor ocean floor vents from their offices on shore. This is the real potential of broadband to transform our lives.

Those who have a fast enough pipe to use those applications will enjoy a huge benefit, both social and economic. As we all recognize, creating next generation broadband networks is crucial to our international competitiveness. It is not news that the United States is lagging many other nations in terms of penetration of current-generation broadband, for example, cable modems and digital subscriber lines. Perhaps more worrisome is that we are also falling behind in terms of next-generation broadband technology.

In Japan, tens of millions of people have access to a direct fiber connection, and 100 megabit connections are commonplace. Korea has been the leader in DSL for years, and now it also is extending fiber all the way to the home. The same is happening in Europe—100 megabit connections are becoming routine in these countries, and it is crucial that the United States not fall behind again. We must have a policy that ensures the deployment of a strong broadband network for all Americans.

The first step in going somewhere is to know where you are going, and the same is true in public policy. We need a goal. And the goal should be an ambitious, yet achievable one. The second step is to decide how to achieve that goal. We need a roadmap. And, we need it now. By the end of 2007, we should establish a national goal and pass a series of policy actions designed to achieve our national goal. There will likely be multiple parts to the plan, and we will likely need to modify those parts over time. But if we do not have a plan, we cannot expect to accomplish our goal.

So today I am introducing a resolution calling for two things: A national goal of 10 megabits per second universally available in the United States by the end of 2010, and 100 megabits by the end of 2015. As I said, that is ambitious, but achievable. A number of different wireline and wireless technologies are today capable of delivering five megabits or more, and their efficacy is constantly increasing. Ten megabits by 2010 is achievable. And by 2015 we can do much better and achieve true next generation speeds.

If we do our work, by 2015 we can become a true “100 Megabit Nation.” Today, speeds of 30 megabits or higher are available to millions of Americans due to the healthy competition developing between telephone companies and cable television companies, complemented by many forward-thinking real estate developers and municipalities. These entities are beginning to offer “triple play” services, voice, video and data, requiring them to deploy new technologies delivering very

fast speeds. Having general availability of 100 megabits is achievable by 2015 if we push the technology envelope. We can do it, and we should resolve today to do so.

The second part of my resolution says that by the end of this year, 2007, we will develop a strategy for achieving our national goal. I will suggest policy actions for inclusion in that strategy, and many of you will as well. I think we should have tax incentives to push the private sector beyond their current deployment plans, we should offer low-interest loans for the same purpose, we should reform the Universal Service Fund to encourage broadband deployment, we should free municipalities to deploy as they see fit, we should ensure the wise use of wireless spectrum, and the list goes on. There will be new proposals to deal with new challenges and new opportunities. We should develop the first U.S. national broadband policy by the end of 2007, and we should revisit it every year thereafter to modify it as necessary. That is what my resolution calls for.

I invite my colleagues to join me in this call for a national broadband goal and strategy. We have talked about it for years. Now it is time to take action. We owe this to our constituents and the country. We must act to provide them with the benefits that a powerful broadband network can bring, and we must begin today.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1061. Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1082, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1062. Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1082, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1063. Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1082, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1064. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1059 submitted by Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. SHELBY) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 1082, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1061. Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1082, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the amendment, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue regulations to require that the labeling, including retail packaging, of each prescription drug include the name of the country in which such prescription drug was manufactured.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “labeling” has the meaning given such term in section 201(m) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(m)).

SA 1062. Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1082, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the amendment, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . CERTIFICATION OF SAFETY FOR NEW PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall certify, prior to the approval for marketing of any new prescription drug under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355), that the approval of such drug poses no additional risk to the public's health and safety.

SA 1063. Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Ms. SNOWE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1082, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the amendment, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . COUNTERFEIT-RESISTANT TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the requirement that the Secretary of Health and Human Services certify that the implementation of the title of this Act relating to the Importation of Prescription Drugs will pose no additional risk to the public's health and safety and will result in a significant reduction in the cost of covered products to the American consumer shall not apply to the requirement that the Secretary, not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, require that the packaging of any prescription drug incorporate—

(1) a standardized numerical identifier unique to each package of such drug, applied at the point of manufacturing and repackaging (in which case the numerical identifier shall be linked to the numerical identifier applied at the point of manufacturing); and

(2)(A) overt optically variable counterfeit-resistant technologies that—

(i) are visible to the naked eye, providing for visual identification of product authenticity without the need for readers, microscopes, lighting devices, or scanners;

(ii) are similar to that used by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to secure United States currency;

(iii) are manufactured and distributed in a highly secure, tightly controlled environment; and

(iv) incorporate additional layers of non-visible convert security features up to and including forensic capability, as described in subsection (b); or

(B) technologies that have a function of security comparable to that described in subparagraph (A), as determined by the Secretary.

(b) STANDARDS FOR PACKAGING.—For the purpose of making it more difficult to counterfeit the packaging of drugs subject to this section, the manufacturers of such drugs shall incorporate the technologies described in subsection (a) into at least 1 additional element of the physical packaging of the drugs, including blister packs, shrink wrap, package labels, package seals, bottles, and boxes.

SA 1064. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1059 submitted by Mr. SESSIONS (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. SHELBY) and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 1082, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize and amend the prescription drug user fee provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1 of the amendment, strike line 4 and all that follows through line 7 on page 2, and redesignate the remaining subsections accordingly.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS**COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS**

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet on Thursday, May 10, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a business meeting.

Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 15, 2007, at 10 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the short-term energy outlook for the summer of 2007 for oil and gasoline.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to rachel_paternack@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Tara Billingsley at (202) 224-7571 or Rachel Paternack at (202) 224-0883.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold a business meeting during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, at 10 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building. The purpose of this meeting will be to consider and approve S. 357, the Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act of 2007.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the Session of the Senate on Finance will meet on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on “The Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit: Review and Oversight.”

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to hold a hearing on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at 10 a.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate office building.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on “Will REAL ID Actually Make Us Safer? An Examination of Privacy and Civil Liberties Concerns” for Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at 10 a.m. in Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Allen Gilbert, Executive Director, The American Civil Liberties Union of Vermont, Montpelier, VT; Jim Harper, Director, Information Policy Studies, CATO Institute, Washington, DC; Dr. James Carafano, Assistant Director, Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies, Senior Research Fellow, Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies, Heritage Foundation, Washington, DC; Bruce Schneier, Founder and Chief Technology Officer, BT Counterpane, Minneapolis, MN; and Janice Kephart, President, 9/11 Security Solutions, LLC, Alexandria, VA.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 8, 2007 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing.

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