

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 894

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 894, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit for the purchase of idling reduction systems for diesel-powered on-highway vehicles.

S. 1827

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1827, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require prompt payment to pharmacies under part D, to restrict pharmacy co-branding on prescription drug cards issued under such part, and to provide guidelines for Medication Therapy Management Services programs offered by prescription drug plans and MA-PD plans under such part.

S. 2062

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2062, a bill to amend the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 to reauthorize that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2495

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2495, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, and the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure with respect to bail bond forfeitures.

S. 2799

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2799, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand and improve health care services available to women veterans, especially those serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3061

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3061, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2008 through 2011 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to enhance measures to combat trafficking in persons, and for other purposes.

S. 3134

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3134, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to require energy commodities to be traded only on regulated markets, and for other purposes.

S. 3144

At the request of Mr. BOND, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3144, a bill to amend part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to delay and

reform the Medicare competitive acquisition program for purchase of durable medical equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies.

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3144, supra.

S. 3167

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3167, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the conditions under which veterans, their surviving spouses, and their children may be treated as adjudicated mentally incompetent for certain purposes.

S. 3175

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3175, a bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to reauthorize the predisaster hazard mitigation program, to make technical corrections to that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3217

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WEBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3217, a bill to provide appropriate protection to attorney-client privileged communications and attorney work product.

S. RES. 499

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 499, a resolution urging Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who is also the head of the Fatah Party, to officially abrogate the 10 articles in the Fatah Constitution that call for Israel's destruction and terrorism against Israel, oppose any political solution, and label Zionism as racism.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DODD, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 3223. A bill to establish a small business energy emergency disaster loan program; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, with the temperatures pushing 90 degrees here in Washington, today might strike some as an odd time to introduce a bill on heating fuels. But for those of us who know the costs of a cold winter ahead, the real fuel crisis is now—and the clock is ticking when it comes to Washington's ability to step in and help before it's too late and this problem becomes a crisis and another state of emergency is declared on Massachusetts. Now and in the coming weeks, families and businesses will be sitting

down to sign their heating fuel contracts, with record prices creating impossible decisions between feeding one's family and heating the home, and laying off employees or going further into debt.

This week the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship held a hearing entitled "Examining Solutions to Cope with the Rise in Home Heating Oil Prices" in which we heard testimony on the effect the historic spike in heating oil prices is having on small businesses. Nationally, 7.7 million households heat their homes with home heating oil. In Massachusetts, more than 963,000 households use home heating oil delivered by over 800 distributors, many of them small businesses.

It is reality—not rhetoric—that price spikes will force people to decide whether to feed their families or heat their homes, and will force small businesses to layoff employees and in some cases shut their doors. The Energy Information Administration is projecting that heating oil prices will be up 56 percent in 2009 as compared with 2007, and even that estimate may be modest. Prices for a gallon of home heating oil sit at over \$4.50 today compared with less than a dollar 10 years ago. That means consumers will have to pay thousands more than ever before to heat their homes this winter, and small businesses who rely on these and other fuels to heat their businesses will face skyrocketing bills at a time when the economy and the credit crunch are already squeezing their bottom lines.

While oil companies are reaping record profits, small business owners are hard hit by these price spikes. Most heating oil distribution is done by small businesses who are victimized many times over by the rising price of fuel. Their accounts receivables go through the roof—which isn't a pretty picture, especially during a credit crunch. Their customers have a difficult time paying their bills and rising credit card fees eat into their margins. The volatility in the market also causes price hedging—a practice of locking into a price in order to buy certainty—to rise from a few cents a gallon a few years ago to upwards of 40 cents a gallon today, rendering almost useless this tool that used to be helpful in giving distributors and consumers an insurance policy against more crippling prices during the winter when the market pressures were greater. These problems are affecting small businesses who work with other heating fuels as well, such as kerosene, propane, and natural gas.

There are many viable and successful small businesses that need assistance to get through times when heating fuel prices spike. This is why I, along with Senator SNOWE, am reintroducing the Small Business Energy Emergency Relief Act to provide assistance through affordable, low-interest Small Business Administration disaster loans to small businesses that have suffered economic