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CFC [Chlorofluorocarbon] Bill's Summaries

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S. 870
Consumer Ozone Protection Act of 1989

SUMMARY: The Bill would label, regulate, and -- in some cases -- eliminate the sale of certain consumer products that contain manmade substances that have been shown to deplete the stratospheric ozone layer. In addition, it promotes the development of a Chlorofluorocarbon and Halon Reclamation Plan for the purpose of encouraging recapture and recycling of ozone-depleting substances.

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS INCLUDE:

o Mobile Air Conditioners.

- Regulates auto air conditioner servicing, to ensure that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) are recaptured and recycled, and not unnecessarily vented to the atmosphere. (About 30% of U.S. emissions of CFC-12 originate from auto air conditioners, and three-quarters of those emissions occur during maintenance and recharging.)

- Eliminates the sale of CFC-containing air conditioner recharge cannisters smaller than 30 pounds. (This provision is intended to limit the sale of CFC-containing air conditioner fluid to bulk purchasers -- servicers -- only.)

- Requires that any servicer who recharges an auto air conditioner with CFC-containing fluids, first test the system for leaks and repair those leaks.

o Fire Extinguishers for Consumer Applications.

- Eliminates the sale of fire extinguishers that contain ozone-depleting substances for consumer applications, except for those applications required by Federal law.

o Nonessential Consumer Products Containing Chlorofluorocarbons.

- Eliminates the sale of certain nonessential CFC-containing consumer products (e.g., party streamers, noise horns, certain cleaning fluids.)

o Labeling.

- Labels consumer products that contain ozone-depleting chemicals, or use such chemicals in their manufacture or operation. The label would warn that the product's contents or manufacturing process pose a danger to

the stratospheric ozone layer, and that depletion of the ozone layer could lead to increased risk of skin cancer and damage to natural systems, including food production.

o Chlorofluorocarbon and Halon Reclamation Plan.

- Calls for a Chlorofluorocarbon and Halon Reclamation Plan, for the purpose of determining the most effective way to ensure widespread reclamation, recycling, or regulated disposal of the ozone-depleting chemicals covered by the Act,

-Referred to Commerce Committee.

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S. 871
Ozone Layer Conservation Act of 1989

SUMMARY: The Bill calls for a manufacturers' excise tax on certain chemicals that deplete the stratospheric ozone layer; establishes an Ozone Layer Conservation Trust Fund in the Treasury Department; and directs half of the revenues from the excise tax into the Trust Fund for the purpose of promoting research, development, and market incentives for technological alternatives to ozone-depleting chemicals.

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS INCLUDE:

o Manufacturers' Excise Tax on Chemicals that Deplete the Stratospheric Ozone Layer.

- Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a manufacturers' excise tax on certain chemicals that deplete the stratospheric ozone layer. The amount of the tax is adjusted for each chemical, depending upon the chemical's potential for depleting stratospheric ozone.

- A similar bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Stark, with 59 co-sponsors; according to a Joint Committee on Taxation study, this measure would raise 0.4 billion in the first year, 0.8 billion in the second year, 1.1 billion in the third year, 1.3 billion in the fourth year, and 1.5 billion in the fifth year.

o Ozone Layer Conservation Trust Fund.

- Would receive one-half of the revenues from the manufacturers' excise tax.

- Expenditures from the Trust Fund would provide for government-industry cooperation in research, development, and market incentives for non-ozone-depleting chemical and technological alternatives (such as new refrigerator and air conditioner designs) to ozone-depleting substances.

- In addition, the federal government would investigate the means by which it might assist United States manufacturers of such alternative technologies, in exporting the equipment for applications in developing and developed countries.

-Referred to Finance Committee.

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S. 872
Upper-Ozone Chemicals Act of 1989

SUMMARY: The Bill provides for a five-year phaseout of six substances that deplete the stratospheric ozone layer (CFC-11, CFC-12, CFC-113, halon-1211, halon-1301, carbon tetrachloride), and a ten-year phaseout of other ozone-depleting substances (CFC-22, CFC-114, CFC-115, methyl chloroform, methylene chloride), with exceptions for medical and national security reasons. There are provisions for certifying that nations from which we import products that contain ozone-depleting chemicals have a similar phaseout program in place, and a requirement for safe disposal of ozone-depleting substances. Finally, the bill calls for developing a safe alternatives policy, for replacing the substances to be phased out with chemicals, product substitutes, or alternative manufacturing processes that reduce overall risk to public health and the environment.

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS INCLUDE:

o A Production Phaseout.

- Five-year phaseout for CFC-11, CFC-12, CFC-113, halon-1211, halon-1301, carbon tetrachloride.

- Ten-year phaseout for CFC-22, CFC-114, CFC-115, methyl chloroform, and methylene chloride.

- There is an exception to the production phaseout for medical and national security reasons.

o Certification of Equivalent Foreign Phaseout Programs.

- Requires certification by the Secretary of State that foreign countries have equivalent phaseout programs in place before allowing their products that contain or are manufactured with ozone-depleting substances, to be exported to the United States.

o Disposal of Ozone-Depleting Substances, and of Products That Contain Ozone-Depleting Substances.

- Requires ozone-depleting substances to be disposed of in a way that ensures that the substances will not be released to the environment.

- Requires that ozone-depleting substances be removed from appliances, machines, or other goods before those goods are disposed of, and that the substances be disposed of as indicated above.

o Safe Alternatives Policy.

- Establishes the policy that the substances to be phased out will be replaced, to the maximum extent possible, by chemicals, product substitutes, or alternative manufacturing processes that reduce overall risks to public health and the environment.

- Calls on EPA to review and report on the alternatives being considered, and assess their risks to public health and the environment.

-Referred to Environment and Public Works Committee.

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