

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . GUARANTEEING PUBLIC SAFETY AND LOCAL CONTROL OF TAXES AND SPENDING.**

Notwithstanding any State law or regulation issued under section 5, no collective-bargaining obligation may be imposed on any political subdivision or any public safety employer, and no contractual provision may be imposed on any political subdivision or public safety employer, if either the principal administrative officer of such public safety employer, or the chief elected official of such political subdivision certifies that the obligation, or any provision would be contrary to the best interests of public safety; or would result in any increase in local taxes, or would result in any decrease in the level of public safety or other municipal services.

**SA 4761.** Mr. CORKER proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4751 proposed by Mr. REID (for Mr. GREGG (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY)) to the bill H.R. 980, to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . STATE EXEMPTION.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the provisions of this Act shall not apply to a State (or political subdivision) that, within 1 year of the date of enactment of this Act, enacts a law that specifically refutes the provisions of this Act.

**NOTICES OF HEARINGS**

**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. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on Energy and Related Economic Effects of Global Climate Change Legislation.

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 it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by e-mail to gina\_weinstock@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Gina Weinstock at (202) 224-5684 or Jonathan Black at (202) 224-6722.

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to advise you that the hearing scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building regarding the Territorial Energy Assessment as updated pursuant to EPACT 05 has been postponed.

For further information, please contact Allen Stayman at (202) 224-7865 or Rosemarie Calabro at (202) 224-5039.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, at 10 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, at 9:45 a.m., in room SD366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to hold a hearing entitled, "Hearing on Mercury Legislation."

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

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Cracking the Code—Tax Reform for Individuals".

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

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, at 10:15 a.m., in room 407 of the Capitol Building, to conduct a closed briefing titled "U.S. Policy Towards Sudan."

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

**COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Tuesday, May 13, at 2:30 p.m. in Room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "The Successes and Shortfalls of Title IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act: Twenty Years of Self-Governance".

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

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized

to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program: Protecting Our Nation's Law Enforcement Officers" on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 13, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing.

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

**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND**

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 561, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 561) commemorating the 50th anniversary of the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the North American Aerospace Defense Command Agreement between the United States and Canada. For my State of Colorado, today is an especially proud and gratifying occasion as it is home to the headquarters of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, located at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs.

On May 12, 1958, the United States and Canada signed an official agreement creating the unique and fully integrated binational North American Aerospace Defense Command, commonly known as NORAD. Administered by the United States Air Force in conjunction with Canadian Forces, NORAD is a premier military command that uses the most innovative technology and equipment to secure our skies. Today, 50 years after its inception, we honor NORAD and pay tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve NORAD's mission with humility and distinction. To these American and Canadian servicemembers, I say thank you.

For five decades, NORAD's mission has been to prevent air attacks against North America and safeguard the sovereign airspaces of the United States and Canada by responding to unknown, unwanted and unauthorized air activity approaching or operating within our airspaces. In more recent years, NORAD's mission has evolved to include collaborative efforts with civilian law enforcement officers to detect

and monitor aircraft suspected of trafficking illegal drugs to North America. In addition, NORAD has developed a system to help our homeland defense and security partners observe North American seas and to warn of encroaching maritime threats. In pursuit of these missions, NORAD has achieved remarkable success.

Over the years NORAD has strengthened the venerable relationship between the United States and Canada. It has been a source of stability for our two nations during good times and bad. Throughout the turbulent Cold War, and now in the midst of the war on terror, NORAD is responsible for continually bringing together bright and courageous minds to help detect, deter and defend against lethal threats to the North American continent. Furthermore, NORAD has become a model for international defense cooperation. It has allowed for the necessary enhancement of information and intelligence sharing between Canadian and American militaries, intelligence agencies, and other security organizations. Twenty four hours a day, 7 days a week, NORAD units all over North America are alert, prepared and equipped to take action to defend our continent and to safeguard our freedoms.

Throughout my nearly 18 years in the U.S. Congress, I have spent quite a bit of time with the commanders at NORAD, and each time we visit I am encouraged by their efforts and reminded of why America is, and will always be, great. With the safety and security of America entrusted to institutions like NORAD and to the brave men and women of our armed forces, I am confident that America will be protected for generations to come.

Especially since the horrific events of September 11, 2001, and the launch of the war on terror, the continued resolve of the United States and Canada to pay any cost to face any foe is more relevant than ever. If we are to remain sovereign and free, America and Canada must continue to adapt to a changing world and respond effectively to evolving threats. I am confident in our ability to do so. Through NORAD and other binational partnerships, America and Canada will jointly and efficiently combat any threat we confront in the 21st century.

Today, as a nation, we honor the legacy and achievements of the North American Aerospace Defense Command, and we look forward to another half century of this successful partnership so that NORAD can continue to provide for the protection of our airspace and our homeland. I offer my sincere congratulations to the North American Aerospace Defense Command for 50 years of extraordinary service to the United States and Canada.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 561) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 561

Whereas, on May 12, 1958, the United States and Canada signed an official agreement creating the bi-national North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and formally acknowledged their mutual commitment to defending their citizens from air attacks;

Whereas 2008 marks the 50th anniversary of the creation of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and the outstanding efforts of American and Canadian service men and women defending North America;

Whereas the North American Aerospace Defense Command is a unique and fully integrated bi-national United States and Canadian command;

Whereas the North American Aerospace Defense Command is headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and administered by the United States Air Force, with 3 subordinate regional centers located at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, and Canadian Forces Base, Winnipeg, Manitoba;

Whereas the mission of the North American Aerospace Defense Command is to "prevent air attacks against North America, safeguard the sovereign airspaces of the United States and Canada by responding to unknown, unwanted, and unauthorized air activity approaching and operating within those airspaces, and provide aerospace and maritime warning for North America";

Whereas, through joint support arrangements with other commands, the North American Aerospace Defense Command, including United States Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, detects, validates, and warns of attacks against North America whether by aircraft, missile, or space vehicle;

Whereas the North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) joint command center serves as a central collection and coordination site for a worldwide system of sensors designed to provide the commander and the governments of Canada and the United States with an accurate picture of any aerospace threat;

Whereas the commander of the North American Aerospace Defense Command provides integrated tactical warning and attack assessments to the governments of the United States and Canada;

Whereas the North American Aerospace Defense Command uses a network of satellites, ground-based and airborne radar, fighters and helicopters, and ground-based air defense systems to detect, intercept, and, if necessary, engage any air-breathing threats to North America;

Whereas North American Aerospace Defense Command assists in the detection and monitoring of aircraft suspected of illegal drug trafficking;

Whereas the Alaskan NORAD Region located at Elmendorf Air Force Base is supported by both the Eleventh Air Force and Air National Guard units;

Whereas the May 2006 North American Aerospace Defense Command Agreement renewal added a maritime warning mission to its slate of responsibilities, which entails a shared awareness and understanding of the ongoing activities conducted in United States and Canadian maritime approaches, maritime areas, and inland waterways;

Whereas the horrific events of September 11, 2001, demonstrated the North American Aerospace Defense Command's continued relevance to North American security;

Whereas, since 2001, the Continental NORAD region, which is divided into 2 defense sectors—the Western Defense Sector, with its headquarters located at McCord Air Force Base, Washington, and the Eastern Defense Sector, with its headquarters located at Rome, New York—has been the lead agency for Operation Noble Eagle, an ongoing mission to protect the continental United States from further airborne aggression from inside and outside of America's borders;

Whereas, in the spring of 2003, North American Aerospace Defense Command fighters based at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida, intercepted 2 hijacked aircraft that originated in Cuba and escorted them to Key West, Florida;

Whereas the continued service with valor and honor of American and Canadian men and women serving at the North American Aerospace Defense Command is central to North America's ability to confront and successfully defeat threats of the 21st century; and

Whereas the continuation of the longstanding and successful relationship between the United States and Canada through the North American Aerospace Defense Command is paramount to the future security of the people of the United States and Canada: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the contributions made by the North American Aerospace Defense Command to the security of North America; and

(2) commemorates 50 years of excellence and distinctive service to the United States and Canada.

#### HONORING CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 562, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 562) honoring Concerns of Police Survivors as the organization begins its 25th year of service to family members of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, our Nation is blessed by the selfless service of more than 26 million Americans who come to the aid of their fellow citizens through countless volunteer organizations at the national, State and local levels. Some of these organizations are household names, like the American Legion, Scouting, the American Red Cross, and the American Cancer Society. Others perform their good work in relative obscurity.

This week, on the occasion of National Police Week, I rise to acknowledge the good work of a voluntary organization that few outside the law enforcement community may ever have heard of. But for those in the law enforcement community, it is the organization to which families turn in times