

March 19, 2009; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-998. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of acting officer in the position of Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Global Health, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2009; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-999. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of acting officer in the position of Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Asia, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2009; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1000. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of acting officer in the position of Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2009; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1001. A communication from the Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy and designation of acting officer in the position of Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Middle East, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2009; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1002. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more to the Republic of Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-1003. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Board's compliance with the Sunshine Act during calendar year 2008; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-1004. A communication from the Acting Chair, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the acquisitions made by the agency during fiscal year 2008 from entities that manufacture articles, materials, or supplies outside of the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1005. A communication from the Attorney of the Office of Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Procurement of Energy Efficient Products" (RIN1904-AB68) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 17, 2009; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-1006. A communication from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report of the Attorney General to the Congress of the United States on the Administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended for the six months ending June 30, 2008"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1007. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, a legislative proposal

relative to North Dakota Judicial District Divisional Adjustment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1008. A communication from the Director of Regulations Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "The Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act of 2007" (RIN2900-AN03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 17, 2009; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1009. A communication from the Director of Regulations Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Termination of Phase-In Period for Full Concurrent Receipt of Military Retired Pay and Veterans Disability Compensation Based on a VA Determination of Individual Unemployability" (RIN2900-AN19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 17, 2009; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-11. A resolution approved by the Westchester County, New York Board of Legislators urging Congress to establish a National Clean and Safe Water Trust fund to provide regular infrastructure funding; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

RESOLUTION NO. 11

Whereas, many of our nation's water pipes and sewers were installed in the early part of the 20th century, some as far back as the Civil War; and

Whereas, as water systems age and population grows, more and more leaks develop and sewage overflows into our streams, rivers, lakes and ocean, creating serious public health hazards; and

Whereas, many communities do not even have sanitary sewer systems and are forced to rely on failing individual septic systems; and

Whereas, public health agencies issued more than 20,000 warnings against swimming at beaches on U.S. coasts in 2005, and a majority of beach closings are due to sewage overflows and malfunctioning sewage plants; and

Whereas, the Environmental Protection Agency's 2000 Progress in Water Quality Report finds that America could experience stream impairments that predate achievement of secondary treatment standards by 2016 if improvements are not made; and

Whereas, the Water Infrastructure Network, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other government agencies report that the cost of presently known wastewater infrastructure construction needs total between \$300 billion and \$450 billion; and

Whereas, the federal government has cut the main source of funding for clean water year after year; and

Whereas, the National Research Council recently warned that more water-borne disease outbreaks will occur if substantial investments are not made to improve our water pipes and systems; and

Whereas, the President has called for a comprehensive economic recovery package to assist state and local governments in meeting infrastructure needs while stimulating the economy and creating jobs; and

Whereas, there are federal trust funds for other major national investment needs like highways and airports, yet the federal gov-

ernment has yet to establish a trust fund to protect something all people need to survive: water; Now therefore be it.

Resolved, That the Westchester County Board of Legislators, requests that the incoming Administration prioritize funding for water filtration and distribution and wastewater and stormwater infrastructure in any economic stimulus package; and be it further

Resolved, That the Westchester County Board of Legislators, urges Congress to establish a National Clean and Safe Water Trust Fund to provide regular infrastructure funding; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the Board forward a copy of this Resolution to President Barack Obama, Vice President Joseph Biden, New York State Governor David Paterson, United States Senators Charles Schumer and Hillary Rodham Clinton, and United States Representatives Eliot Engel, Nita Lowey, and John Hall, so that the intent of this Honorable Board be widely known.

POM-12. A resolution adopted by the City of Pembroke Pines, Florida supporting the passage and adoption of an amendment to the Federal regulations allowing for the issuance of tax-exempt bonds to help cities fund their pension obligations; to the Committee on Finance.

RESOLUTION NO. 3214

Whereas, in recent years the City of Pembroke Pines, Florida (hereinafter referred to as the "City") has issued bonds to help fund its pension obligations; and

Whereas, under the current federal regulatory scheme, such bonds are taxable, which results in a higher cost to the City than if they were tax exempt; and

Whereas, the City incurs an additional cost of approximately twenty-five percent (25%) as a result of issuing taxable bonds rather than tax-exempt bonds; and

Whereas, allowing for a tax-exemption for the issuance of bonds to fund its pension obligations will result in significant savings to the City, and its taxpayers, particularly at a time when the financial stability of cities and counties throughout the State of Florida, as well as the U.S. economy as a whole, is in a period of uncertainty; and

Whereas, the City Commission deems it to be in the best interests of the citizens and residents of the City to support an amendment to the federal regulations, as well as any other regulations on the State level, allowing for the issuance of tax-exempt bonds to help cities fund their pension obligations. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the City Commission of the city of Pembroke Pines, Florida, That:

Section 1. The foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

Section 2. The City Commission of the City of Pembroke Pines, Florida hereby supports an amendment to the federal regulations allowing for the issuance of tax-exempt bonds to help cities fund their pension obligations.

Section 3. All resolutions or parts of resolutions on in conflict herewith be, and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

Section 4. If any clause, section, other part or application of this Resolution is held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, in part or application, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions or applications of this Resolution.

Section 5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF
COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

*Gary Locke, of Washington, to be Secretary of Commerce.

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Dawn Elizabeth Johnsen, of Indiana, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND
JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. KAUFMAN):

S. 638. A bill to provide grants to promote financial and economic literacy; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. COBURN):

S. 639. A bill to amend the definition of commercial motor vehicle in section 31101 of title 49, United States Code, to exclude certain farm vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GREGG (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. 640. A bill to provide Congress a second look at wasteful spending by establishing enhanced rescission authority under fast-track procedures; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 641. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to prevent the abuse of dehydroepiandrosterone, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BAYH (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BYRD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 642. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish registries of members and former members of the Armed Forces exposed in the line of duty to occupational and environmental health chemical hazards, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide health care to veterans exposed to such hazards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 643. A bill to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit preexisting condition exclusions for children in group health plans and health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 644. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to include service after Sep-

tember 11, 2001, as service qualifying for the determination of a reduced eligibility age for receipt of non-regular service retired pay; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 645. A bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to modify the Department of Defense share of expenses under the National Guard Youth Challenge Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. COBURN):

S. 646. A bill to amend section 435(o) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding the definition of economic hardship; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. KOHL):

S. 647. A bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve the transparency of information on skilled nursing facilities and nursing facilities and to clarify and improve the targeting of the enforcement of requirements with respect to such facilities; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 648. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a prospective payment system instead of the reasonable cost-based reimbursement method for Medicare-covered services provided by Federally qualified health centers and to expand the scope of such covered services to account for expansions in the scope of services provided by Federally qualified health centers since the inclusion of such services for coverage under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. NELSON of Florida, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 649. A bill to require an inventory of radio spectrum bands managed by the national telecommunications and Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. FEINGOLD:

S. 650. A bill to abolish the death penalty under Federal law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BAUCUS (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SNOWE, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. KERRY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 651. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on excessive bonuses paid by, and received from, companies receiving Federal emergency economic assistance, to limit the amount of nonqualified deferred compensation that employees of such companies may defer from taxation, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 652. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to community health coalitions to assist in the development of integrated health care delivery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 653. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BUNNING (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 654. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to cover physician services delivered by podiatric physicians to ensure access by Medicaid beneficiaries to appropriate quality foot and ankle care; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 655. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to ensure adequate funding for conservation and restoration of wildlife, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KERRY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 656. A bill to provide for the adjustment of status of certain nationals of Liberia to that of lawful permanent residents; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 657. A bill to provide for media coverage of Federal court proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 658. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care for veterans who live in rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:

S. 659. A bill to improve the teaching and learning of American history and civics; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. DODD):

S. 660. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to pain care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 661. A bill to strengthen American manufacturing through improved industrial energy efficiency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. KERRY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 662. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for reimbursement of certified midwife services and to provide for more equitable reimbursement rates for certified nurse-midwife services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KERRY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SPECTER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. COCHRAN):

S. 663. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund to provide benefits to certain individuals who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.