

new bridge to be built that could carry not just the pipe, but provide a new pedestrian access/bicycle path for visitors that today need to walk along the heavily traveled highway rather than on separated, pedestrian path toward visitors attractions and nearby hotels. In all probability the installation work will be conducted in the shoulder seasons to make sure there are no visitor dislocations for tourists visiting the park.

For those reasons and others, a group of eight environmental groups: The National Parks and Conservation Association, the Alaska Conservation Alliance, the Denali Citizens Council, The Wilderness Society, Cook Inlet Keeper, the Alaska Center for the Environment, the Wrangell Mountain Center and the Alaska Wildlife Alliance in 2009 generally supported the granting of a gas line right-of-way through Denali Park, along the existing highway right-of-way.

The granting of a permanent 20-foot easement, and probably a 100-foot construction easement, is not precedent setting. The National Park Service already has granted a permit for an installed fiber-optic cable along the same basic alignment for an Alaska communications company. Obviously the exact right-of-way will have to be delineated to avoid the existing cable and to accommodate park goals, such as routing around a vernal pond viewing area located along the general right-of-way. Just earlier this year the 112 Congress gave approval for a similar bill that allows a gas line to pass through Glacier National Park in Montana.

I am proposing this bill simply to authorize the right-of-way for a Parks Highway route soon so that the decision on which route is best for the state and its citizens—if the “bullet” line option is chosen—can be made based on greater certainty in the cost estimates and the timing for a project. Removing the uncertainty of permitting and regulatory delays will at least permit the Parks Highway route to be on a level playing field with the Richardson and Glenn Highway or other potential projects. The State of Alaska in 2010 finished a preliminary study of the project and continues to consider whether to permit and finance a “bullet” line project, compared to other options, including importing liquefied natural gas or building other renewable energy project to attempt to meet Southcentral power needs in the future. But approval of the right-of-way would remove a key unknown and allow the decision on which project makes the most sense for all Alaskans to be made without fear that right-of-way acquisition delays could inflate costs unreasonably.

If the Parks route is chosen and the project proceeds, then the national park may well benefit from the environmental benefits of natural gas and compressed natural gas being more readily available for park activities, cutting air quality concerns, and im-

proving pedestrian access—depending upon final economic considerations involving the cost and location for a gas conditioning plant.

In 2009 when this bill was first introduced, it was modified after initial introduction to meet all concerns voiced by the environmental community and congressional staff and the National Parks Service. The version being reintroduced in this joint bill was approved unanimously by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and added to the American Clean Energy Leadership Act that passed from the Committee on June 17, 2009, and again on Dec. 17, 2011. The provision, according to the Congressional Budget Office, had nominal—less than \$5,000 in cost impacts—when scored.

I truly believe there are no environmental issues with this legislation. I think anyone who has ever traveled on the Parks Highway in Alaska through Denali National Park would agree, and I hope it can be approved by Congress early in the 113 session given the increasing severity of the need for power generation in the Alaska Railroad in coming years.

The third and final section of my bill is the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station Renaming Act.

The Talkeetna Ranger Station, which is the home of Denali National Park's mountaineering rangers, sits just about 100 miles south of the entrance to the park. Of course, the landmark that's most commonly linked to both the park and the ranger station itself happens to be the mountain that features a summit which represents the highest point in North America: Denali. In fact, anybody who intends to attempt a climb of Mt. McKinley is required to first stop at the Talkeetna Ranger Station for their permit and mountain orientation.

It is only fitting, then, that we honor the memory of Alaska Native Walter Harper by forever linking his name with this specific ranger station. It was Mr. Harper that 100 years ago next year became the first person to reach the summit of Mt. McKinley.

My bill is a simple one, and it is not likely to gain much notice outside of Alaska. Within my home state, however, this small gesture means a great deal. Alaskans, like the people who call any other state home, are proud of the historical accomplishments of their fellow Alaskans. Walter Harper was one such Alaskan, and his feat is one that will always be remembered.

Certainly, officially designating the Talkeetna Ranger Station—the very building where any hiker today planning to climb Mt. McKinley is required to first stop—the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station is a fitting tribute to the man himself, as well as his spot in our state's history books.

June 7 of next year, 2013, will mark the 100 year anniversary of Mr. Harper's historic climb. It would truly be special for Alaska and Alaskans to have this designation in place by that date.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 19—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE FOR WINNING THE 2012 BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

#### S. RES. 19

Whereas the University of Alabama Crimson Tide won the 2013 Discover Bowl Championship Series (referred to in this preamble as “BCS”) National Championship Game, defeating the University of Notre Dame Fighting Irish by a score of 42-14 at the Sun Life Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, on January 7, 2013;

Whereas this victory marks the second consecutive BCS championship, the third BCS championship in the last 4 years, and the 15th national championship overall in college football for the University of Alabama;

Whereas the 2013 BCS National Championship Game was the 60th postseason bowl appearance and the 34th bowl victory for the University of Alabama, both of which extend existing NCAA records held by the University of Alabama;

Whereas the victory by the University of Alabama marks the fourth consecutive BCS championship for the State of Alabama and the seventh consecutive BCS championship for the Southeastern Conference;

Whereas the University of Alabama exhibited an almost perfectly balanced offensive performance, with 265 rushing yards and 264 passing yards;

Whereas running back Eddie Lacy rushed for 140 yards on 20 carries and scored 2 touchdowns, earning the award for most valuable player on offense;

Whereas linebacker C.J. Mosley led the Crimson Tide defense with 8 tackles, earning the award for most valuable player on defense;

Whereas quarterback A.J. McCarron completed 20 of 28 passes for a total of 264 yards and threw 4 touchdowns without an interception;

Whereas the Crimson Tide held the Fighting Irish to 32 rushing yards and, in 2012, led the entire nation in total defense for the second consecutive year;

Whereas Chance Warmack, Dee Milliner, C.J. Mosley, and Barrett Jones were recognized as first-team All-Americans by the Associated Press in 2012;

Whereas Barrett Jones, a senior at the University of Alabama, was awarded the 2012 Rimington Trophy as the best center in the nation and the 2012 William V. Campbell Trophy as the best scholar-athlete in the nation;

Whereas the 2012 Crimson Tide senior class won an unprecedented 3 BCS national championships and 49 total games, tying an NCAA record for class victories;

Whereas the leadership and vision of head coach Nick Saban has propelled the University of Alabama back to the pinnacle of college football;

Whereas Chancellor Robert Witt, President Judy Bonner, and Athletic Director Mal Moore have emphasized the importance of academic success to the Crimson Tide football team and to all student-athletes at the University of Alabama; and

Whereas the Crimson Tide football team has brought great pride and honor to the University of Alabama, its loyal fans, and

the entire state of Alabama: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Alabama Crimson Tide for winning the 2012 Bowl Championship Series National Championship;

(2) recognizes the achievements of all the players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the 2012 championship season; and

(3) requests that the Secretary of the Senate prepare an official copy of this resolution for presentation to—

(A) the President of the University of Alabama, Dr. Judy Bonner;

(B) the Athletic Director of the University of Alabama, Mal Moore; and

(C) the Head Coach of the University of Alabama Crimson Tide football team, Nick Saban.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT A CARBON TAX IS NOT IN THE ECONOMIC INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. LEE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HELLER, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. JOHANNES) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. CON. RES. 4

Whereas a carbon tax is regressive in nature and would unfairly burden those vulnerable individuals and families in the United States that are already struggling under a stagnating economy;

Whereas a carbon tax would increase the cost of every good manufactured in the United States;

Whereas a carbon tax would harm the entire United States manufacturing sector;

Whereas the increase in production of domestic energy resources on private and State-owned land has created significant job growth and private capital investment; and

Whereas affordable and reliable energy sources are critical to maintaining the United States' global competitiveness: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to American families and businesses, and is not in the interest of the United States.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a fellow in my office, Mr. Derek Griffing, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Judiciary Com-

mittee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 9, and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 9) designating January 2013 as "National Mentoring Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consideration of the resolution.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. 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, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 9) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of January 3, 2013 under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 19, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 19) congratulating the University of Alabama Crimson Tide for winning the 2012 Bowl Championship Series National Championship.

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

Mrs. SHAHEEN. 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. 19) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 164

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 164) to prohibit the United States from providing financial assistance to Pakistan until Dr. Shakil Afridi is freed.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I now ask for a second reading, but in order to place the

bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2013

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 29, 2013; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the second 30 minutes; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

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

#### PROGRAM

Mrs. SHAHEEN. We anticipate the Foreign Relations Committee will report out Senator KERRY's nomination and look forward to full Senate consideration tomorrow.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mrs. SHAHEEN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:02 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, January 29, 2013, at 10 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

GERALD LYN EARLY, OF MISSOURI, TO BE A MEMBER OF NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2018, VICE JOSIAH BUNTING, III, TERM EXPIRED.

PATRICIA NELSON LIMERICK, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2018, VICE ROBERT S. MARTIN, TERM EXPIRED.

SHELLY COLLEEN LOWE, OF ARIZONA, TO BE A MEMBER OF NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2018, VICE JANE M. DOGGETT, TERM EXPIRED.

DANIEL IWAOKI OKIMOTO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2018, VICE MARY HABECK, TERM EXPIRED.

KATHERINE H. TACHAU, OF IOWA, TO BE A MEMBER OF NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2018, VICE JAY WINIK, TERM EXPIRED.