

H.R. 1162. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to make improvements in the Government Accountability Office (Rept. No. 113-128).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. WYDEN for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Steven Croley, of Michigan, to be General Counsel of the Department of Energy.

*Christopher Smith, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy).

*Esther Puakela Kia'aina, of Hawaii, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

*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.

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 Mr. INHOFE:

S. 1833. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the taxable income limit on percentage depletion for oil and natural gas produced from marginal properties; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 1834. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the depreciation rules for property used predominantly within an Indian reservation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 1835. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to require a jobs score for each spending bill considered in Congress; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. BURR (for himself, Mr. COATS, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 1836. A bill to merge the Department of Labor, the Department of Commerce, and the Small Business Administration to establish a Department of Commerce and the Workforce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1837. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to prohibit the use of consumer credit checks against prospective and current employees for the purposes of making adverse employment decisions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 1838. A bill to amend the National Historic Preservation Act to make Hispanic-serving institutions eligible for technical and financial assistance for the establishment of preservation training and degree programs; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 1839. A bill to make certain luggage and travel articles eligible for duty-free treat-

ment under the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1840. A bill to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to rely on State examinations for certain financial institutions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 1841. A bill to mitigate the reduction in the readiness of our Armed Forces by reducing the defense sequestration cuts for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 but implementing the cuts, in their entirety, over the duration of sequestration; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COATS, Mr. CORKER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. REID, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1842. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition and celebration of the Pro Football Hall of Fame; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. JOHANNIS):

S. 1843. A bill to eliminate duplication and waste in Federal information technology acquisition and management; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WARNER, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. REED, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 1844. A bill to restore full military retirement benefits by closing corporate tax loopholes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1845. A bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mrs. HAGAN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. NELSON, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. VITTER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 1846. A bill to delay the implementation of certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 1847. A bill to provide for the redesignation of the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies as the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies; considered and passed.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 313

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from New Hamp-

shire (Ms. AYOTTE) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 624

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 624, a bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to require criminal background checks for child care providers.

S. 641

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 641, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to increase the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, and other programs, to promote education in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

S. 666

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 666, a bill to prohibit attendance of an animal fighting venture, and for other purposes.

S. 864

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 864, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to reauthorize technical assistance to small public water systems, and for other purposes.

S. 870

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 870, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to promote the education of pregnant and parenting students.

S. 895

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 895, a bill to improve the ability of the Food and Drug Administration to study the use of antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals.

S. 958

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 958, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level, and for other purposes.

S. 1007

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1007, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include biomass

heating appliances for tax credits available for energy-efficient building property and energy property.

S. 1181

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1181, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exempt certain stock of real estate investment trusts from the tax on foreign investments in United States real property interests, and for other purposes.

S. 1187

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1187, a bill to prevent homeowners from being forced to pay taxes on forgiven mortgage loan debt.

S. 1291

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1291, a bill to strengthen families' engagement in the education of their children.

S. 1332

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1332, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 1361

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1361, a bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept additional documentation when considering the application for veterans status of an individual who performed service as a coastwise merchant seaman during World War II, and for other purposes.

S. 1364

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1364, a bill to promote neutrality, implicit, and fairness in the taxation of digital goods and digital services.

S. 1422

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1422, a bill to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 respecting the scoring of preventive health savings.

S. 1456

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1456, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

S. 1459

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as co-

sponsors of S. 1459, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the transportation of horses in interstate transportation in a motor vehicle containing 2 or more levels stacked on top of one another.

S. 1500

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1500, a bill to declare the November 5, 2009, attack at Fort Hood, Texas, a terrorist attack, and to ensure that the victims of the attack and their families receive the same honors and benefits as those Americans who have been killed or wounded in a combat zone overseas and their families.

S. 1570

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1570, a bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service by providing 2-fiscal-year budget authority, and for other purposes.

S. 1613

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1613, a bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to clarify Federal law with respect to reporting full-file alternative data, including positive and negative consumer credit information to consumer reporting agencies by public utility or telecommunications companies, and for other purposes.

S. 1661

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1661, a bill to require the Secretary of State to offer rewards of up to \$5,000,000 for information regarding the attacks on the United States diplomatic mission at Benghazi, Libya that began on September 11, 2012.

S. 1690

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1690, a bill to reauthorize the Second Chance Act of 2007.

S. 1697

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1697, a bill to support early learning.

S. 1711

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1711, a bill to enable States to opt out of certain provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 1719

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1719, a bill to amend the Public

Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 1725

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1725, a bill to amend the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970 to confirm that a customer's net equity claim is based on the customer's last statement and that certain recoveries are prohibited, to change how trustees are appointed, and for other purposes.

S. 1728

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1728, a bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve ballot accessibility to uniformed services voters and overseas voters, and for other purposes.

S. 1747

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1747, a bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 1765

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1765, a bill to ensure the compliance of Iran with agreements relating to Iran's nuclear program.

S. 1767

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1767, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require gas pipeline facilities to accelerate the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of high-risk pipelines used in commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 1768

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1768, a bill to establish State revolving loan funds to repair or replace natural gas distribution pipelines.

S. 1779

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1779, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to exempt fire hydrants from the prohibition on the use of lead pipes, fittings, fixtures, solder, and flux.

S. 1797

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1797, a bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 1798

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from

Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1798, a bill to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not counted as full-time employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. RES. 75

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 75, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran for its state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 252

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 252, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on steps the Government of Iran must take before President Obama meets with the President of Iran.

S. RES. 317

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 317, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the continuing relationship between the United States and Georgia.

S. RES. 318

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 318, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the critical need for political reform in Bangladesh, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 319

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 319, a resolution expressing support for the Ukrainian people in light of President Yanukovich's decision not to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union.

AMENDMENT NO. 2562

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2562 intended to be proposed to H.J. Res. 59, a joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2563

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2563 intended to be proposed to H.J. Res. 59, a joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2564

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2564 intended to be proposed to H.J. Res. 59, a joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2576

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2576 intended to be proposed to H.J. Res. 59, a joint resolution making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 1833. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the taxable income limit on percentage depletion for oil and natural gas produced from marginal properties; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I would like to announce the reintroduction of a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to eliminate the taxable income limit on percentage depletion for oil and natural gas produced from marginal properties.

Since 1926 small producers and millions of royalty owners have had the option to utilize percentage depletion to both simplify their accounting methodology and to account for the decline in the value of minerals produced from a property. Percentage depletion is particularly important to America's 700,000 low-volume marginal wells. The average marginal well produces barely 2 barrels per day, yet cumulatively they account for nearly 28 percent of domestic production in the lower 48 states. Since every on-shore natural gas and oil well eventually declines into marginal production, the economic life span and corresponding production of all wells is extended by allowing the use of percentage depletion.

Until 1998, the deduction marginal producers could take from percentage depletion was limited to 100 percent of taxable income from each individual property. Many producers, however, specialize in marginally producing wells and have many properties operating simultaneously. Naturally, some wells in a producer's portfolio are more productive than others. Some would have depletion rates greater than 100 percent of taxable income, while others would have depletion rates lower than the limit. Removing the taxable income limitation allows producers to take percentage depletion deductions on a portfolio-wide basis, which makes their entire operation more economical.

Since 1998, Congress has understood this fact and has suspended the limitation. Unfortunately, the provision has never been made permanent. It has just been extended year after year as part

of the Tax Extenders Package. Since we have had this suspension on the books for more than a decade, I think it is time to give producers the predictability they need by making this common sense tax accounting provision permanent.

At a time when our unemployment rate remains over 7 percent, we need to be doing everything we can to encourage economic growth. The energy industry is a major contributor to our economy, and it has a lot of room to grow. The Congressional Research Service released a report that says the United States has the most energy potential under its soil than any other country on earth. Hiding beneath our soil are jobs, wealth, and lower deficits. We should allow this sector to grow. This is a common sense, easy way to do this, so I urge swift passage.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 1834. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the depreciation rules for property used predominantly within an Indian reservation; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I would like to bring to your attention a bill I am reintroducing that would make permanent the current tax provision that allows capital assets on Indian lands to be depreciated on an accelerated schedule.

For many years, the Federal tax code has provided an incentive for businesses to invest in operations on Indian reservations and lands across the country. According to the law, businesses that purchase capital equipment and use it on Indian lands will be able to depreciate it, on average, more than 40 percent faster than would otherwise be allowed.

This tax provision is important to Oklahoma because of our longstanding history and unique relationship with Indian tribes. With our sluggish economy, we need to do all we can to encourage businesses to reinvest in and expand their operations, as this will create sustainable job growth.

The accelerated depreciation schedule gives businesses the opportunity to recover investment dollars in capital assets more rapidly. This frees money that would have been tied up in the value of their capital assets, such as buildings, equipment, and machinery and enables companies to reinvest it more quickly than was available with a slower depreciation schedule.

The Oklahoma Department of Commerce has reported that many companies attribute this provision as a key reason for relocating to and expanding within the State. One Oklahoma food processing plant manager stated that the credit was a significant factor in the company's decision to expand.

Additionally, today's announcement by Macy's, Inc. to locate a new, world class online processing center in Tulsa was justified in part by the Indian lands tax provision. This new 1.3 million square feet facility will employ