

California, the site designated by the United States Olympic Committee;

(2) expresses the sincere hope that the United States will be selected as the site for the 2024 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games and pledges cooperation and support toward the successful fulfillment of those Games in the highest sense of the Olympic tradition; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the United States Olympic Committee and to the International Olympic Committee.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 44—RECOGNIZING THE SUNFLOWER AS THE FLOWER FOR MILITARY CAREGIVERS**

Mr. BURR (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 44

Whereas military caregivers are nameless, courageous, giving individuals whose determination and sacrifices are rarely acknowledged and little-known outside of the military community;

Whereas a military caregiver provides support and medical care to a member of the uniformed services or veteran who suffers from a physical, mental, or emotional wound or injury;

Whereas military caregivers can include a father, mother, spouse, sibling, family member, loved one, or close friend of an injured member of the uniformed services or veteran;

Whereas since the first armed conflict of the United States, injured veterans have been cared for by family members and loved ones after returning home from combat;

Whereas since the Revolutionary War, military caregivers in the United States have tended to injured veterans as the veterans have recovered from seen and unseen wounds from combat operations;

Whereas military caregivers have shown time and time again, regardless of the conflict, that caring for those who return home is a part of the character of the United States;

Whereas many of the members of the uniformed services and veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom—

(1) suffered wounds or injuries; and

(2) require assistance from a caregiver to complete either activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, and feeding, or instrumental activities such as transportation, meal preparation, and health management;

Whereas, according to a study of military caregivers conducted by the RAND Corporation, more than 1,000,000 individuals serve as caregivers to veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 124 Stat. 1130) facilitated a new program for access to health insurance, mental health services, caregiver training, and respite care by family caregivers of veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas the adoration, loyalty, and longevity of military caregivers—

(1) endures through the hardships of extended hospital stays, multiple surgeries, and lifetimes of care; and

(2) helps create a fresh start that is hopeful even during difficult times;

Whereas the sunflower is a flower that symbolizes adoration, loyalty, and longevity; and

Whereas there is no more appropriate representation of the devotion and determination to overcome obstacles shown every day by military caregivers than the sunflower: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

(1) honors military caregivers for service and sacrifice to the United States;

(2) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to show support to military families; and

(B) to recognize the sacrifices endured by those families in service to the United States; and

(3) recognizes the sunflower as the flower for military caregivers.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 45—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO THE DISAPPROVAL OF CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN COMPANIES, TRADE ASSOCIATIONS, FOUNDATIONS, AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. CON. RES. 45

Whereas in the case of tobacco companies and allied organizations—

(1) according to peer-reviewed scientific research and Federal court findings, tobacco companies knew about the harmful health effects of their products; and

(2) contrary to the scientific findings of the tobacco companies and of others about the danger tobacco poses to human health, tobacco companies, directly and through their trade associations, and foundations—

(A) developed a sophisticated and deceitful campaign that funded think tanks and front groups, and paid public relations firms to deny, counter, and obfuscate peer-reviewed science; and

(B) used that misinformation campaign to mislead the public and cast doubt in order to protect their financial interest;

Whereas in the case of lead-related manufacturers and allied organizations—

(1) according to peer-reviewed scientific research and State court findings, the paint industry, gasoline manufacturers, and lead producers knew about the harmful health effects of lead in paint and other products throughout the 20th century; and

(2) contrary to the scientific findings of the paint industry, gasoline manufacturers, lead producers, and others about the danger lead poses to human health, those companies, directly and through their trade associations, and foundations—

(A) developed a sophisticated and deceitful campaign that funded think tanks and front groups, and paid public relations firms to deny, counter, and obfuscate peer-reviewed research; and

(B) used that misinformation campaign to mislead the public and cast doubt in order to protect their financial interest; and

Whereas in the case of fossil fuel companies and allied organizations—

(1) according to peer-reviewed scientific research and investigative reporting, fossil fuel companies have long known about cli-

mate change and the harmful climate effects of their products; and

(2) contrary to the scientific findings of the fossil fuel companies and of others about the danger fossil fuels pose to the climate, fossil fuel companies, directly and through their trade associations, and foundations—

(A) developed a sophisticated and deceitful campaign that funded think tanks and front groups, and paid public relations firms to deny, counter, and obfuscate peer-reviewed research; and

(B) used that misinformation campaign to mislead the public and cast doubt in order to protect their financial interest: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—*

(1) disapproves of activities by certain corporations, trade associations, foundations, and organizations funded by those corporations—

(A) to deliberately mislead the public and undermine peer-reviewed scientific research about the dangers of their products; and

(B) to deliberately cast doubt on science in order to protect their financial interests; and

(2) urges fossil fuel companies and allied organizations to cooperate with active or future investigations into—

(A) their climate-change related activities;

(B) what they knew about climate change and when they knew that information;

(C) what they knew about the harmful effects of fossil fuels on the climate; and

(D) any activities to mislead the public about climate change.

**NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY**

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 525, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 525) designating August 16, 2016, as "National Airborne Day."

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 525) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

**RECOGNIZING THE SUNFLOWER AS THE FLOWER FOR MILITARY CAREGIVERS**

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 44.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 44) recognizing the sunflower as the flower for military caregivers.

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 44) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2016

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, July 12; 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; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 524, with the time until 12:30 p.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; finally, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings.

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

#### PROGRAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, we can expect the first rollcall votes to occur after the conference lunches tomorrow.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators MERKLEY and WHITEHOUSE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I have risen on several occasions to bring attention to the challenges confronting our "we the people" system of government that President Abraham Lincoln so eloquently described all

those years ago as one "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

I have talked about the powerful special interests working to corrupt the nature of our Republic, thanks to the unchecked wealth flowing into our political system because of the Supreme Court's series of misguided decisions in *Buckley v. Valeo*, *Citizens United*, and *SpeechNow.org*.

Today, I am honored to join with my colleagues from Minnesota, New Hampshire, and Connecticut—organized by my colleague from Rhode Island, who will be speaking in a moment—to show how these same special interests are using their vast wealth and resources to sway national policies and public debate to benefit their interests at the expense of the American people and turn our government into one of, by, and for a powerful special interest. There is no better example of what I mean than the debate surrounding one of the most critical issues facing our Nation and the world today: climate change.

Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan once famously stated that "everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not to his own facts." Well, manmade climate change is a fact. Scientists, universities, and government agencies across the world have all said that manmade climate change is real, that it endangers our planet, and that we need to address it quickly if there is any hope for our future.

Back in 2005, 11 science academies from around the world—including Brazil, Italy, Japan, and Russia—signed a joint letter stating that "there is now strong evidence that significant global warming is occurring" and that "it is likely that most of the warming in recent decades can be attributed to human activities." Five years later, the Pentagon stated very directly that "the danger from climate change is real, urgent, and severe."

Fast-forward 5 more years to 2015, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science warned that "we face risks of abrupt, unpredictable and potentially irreversible changes" with potentially "massively disruptive consequences to societies and ecosystems."

The fact is, we don't really need to turn to our scientists or studies to know that climate change is real; we simply have to look at the world around us. We can see and feel it for ourselves. We saw it when 2014 became the hottest year on record, and then we saw it again in 2015 when 2015 became the hottest year on record. We see it as our forests come under assault from longer fire seasons and insect infestations because the winters are not cold enough to kill the pine beetles. We see it in our waters, our loss of snowpacks, as fishermen fish in ever smaller and warmer streams for trout and salmon, and our farmers face less water for irrigation. We see it in the oceans—oceans that are 30 percent more acidic today than they were before we started burn-

ing coal at the dawn of the Industrial Revolution. The acidic ocean is endangering our sea life, killing coral, and causing a real challenge for our shellfish. We see it in the droughts that hurt our farms and the increasingly powerful storms that regularly devastate communities, businesses, and people's lives.

Why, with all of this proof from the scientific community and with all of the proof and facts directly before our eyes, does such strong opposition remain to the effects of climate change? We know the answer. It is because a powerful, moneyed interest has spun a web of deceit, working for years and continuing to work to undermine mainstream, scientific research and deceive the American people about the dangers and causes of climate change.

These members are part of a special interest that have made their fortunes from fossil fuels. If they acknowledge the realities of climate change, it would suggest that their industry would have to dramatically change in a very short period of time. In fact, according to conventional science, we have to keep 80 percent of fossil fuels in the ground if we are to have any hope of keeping carbon emissions within a range that does not trigger catastrophic consequences. That is why, in the minds of this industry, it is better to lie to the American people than to risk their businesses and fortunes.

We have seen this movie before, when the tobacco industry lied to the American people for decades to discredit the emerging science and evidence that tobacco was killing millions of Americans. And now the fossil industrial complex is lying to the American people, but this time it is not just the health of Americans at risk, it is the health of the entire planet.

The Union of Concerned Scientists published a report last summer which showed that for decades the "fossil-industrial complex" knowingly worked to deceive the American public about the realities and risks of climate change. One of the main ways they do this is by funding third-party organizations like think tanks, advocacy groups that produce counter-climate research and make people question which facts and information they can trust. We know this is happening because various studies have revealed the incredible level of coordination between different groups and researchers who always see corporate funding and who all seem to work off the same scripts.

Justin Farrell, a sociologist at Yale University, authored a study last November that examined 20 years' worth of articles, policy papers, and transcripts from 4,500 individuals associated with 164 different groups known to be skeptical of climate change science. Comparing the work of those who had received this special interest corporate funding and those that had not, he found a clear, coordinated effort among the corporate-backed groups that cast