

of S. 602, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as section 179 property and classify certain automated fire sprinkler system retrofits as 15-year property for purposes of depreciation.

S. 605

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 605, a bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to discourage litigation against the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management relating to land management projects.

S. 655

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 655, a bill to exempt certain 16- and 17-year-old individuals employed in logging operations from child labor laws.

S. 672

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 672, a bill to require a report on designation of North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 681

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 692

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 692, a bill to provide for integrated plan permits, to establish an Office of the Municipal Ombudsman, to promote green infrastructure, and to require the revision of financial capability guidance.

S. 720

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 720, a bill to amend the Export Administration Act of 1979 to include in the prohibitions on boycotts against allies of the United States boycotts fostered by international governmental organizations against Israel and to direct the Export-Import Bank of the United States to oppose boycotts against Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 721

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 721, a bill to require the disclosure of certain visitor access records.

S.J. RES. 2

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 2, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S. RES. 93

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 93, a resolution congratulating the European Union on the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome, which established the European Economic Community and laid the foundation for decades of European peace and prosperity.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 728. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to provide funds to States and Indian tribes for the purpose of promoting economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 728

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Revitalizing the Economy of Coal Communities by Leveraging Local Activities and Investing More Act of 2017" or the "RECLAIM Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION FOR COAL COUNTRY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 416. ABANDONED MINE LAND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION.

"(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to promote economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed mining communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977.

"(b) IN GENERAL.—From amounts deposited into the fund under section 401(b) before October 1, 2007, and not otherwise appropriated to the extent such funds are available, \$200,000,000 shall be made available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 for distribution to States and Indian tribes in accordance with this section for reclamation and restoration projects at sites identified as priorities under section 403(a): *Provided*, That

if less than \$200,000,000 is available in any fiscal year to the Secretary, such remaining amount shall be made available to the Secretary, without further appropriation, and such fiscal year shall end distributions made available under this section.

"(c) USE OF FUNDS FOR PRIORITY SITES.—Funds distributed to a State or Indian tribe under subsection (d) shall be used only for projects classified under the priorities of section 403(a). In addition, if the project is classified under paragraph (3) of such section, the project also must meet the following criteria:

"(1) CONTRIBUTION TO FUTURE ECONOMIC OR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The project, upon completion of reclamation, is intended to create favorable conditions for the economic development of the project site or create favorable conditions that promote the general welfare through economic and community development of the area in which the project is conducted.

"(B) DEMONSTRATION OF CONDITIONS.—Such conditions are demonstrated by—

"(i) documentation of the role of the project in such area's economic development strategy or other economic and community development planning process;

"(ii) any other documentation of the planned economic and community use of the project site after the primary reclamation activities are completed, which may include contracts, agreements in principle, or other evidence that, once reclaimed, the site is reasonably anticipated to be used for one or more industrial, commercial, residential, agricultural, or recreational purposes; or

"(iii) any other documentation agreed to by the State or Indian tribe that demonstrates the project will meet the criteria set forth in this subsection.

"(2) LOCATION IN COMMUNITY AFFECTED BY RECENT DECLINE IN MINING.—The project will be conducted in a community—

"(A) that has been adversely affected economically by a recent reduction in coal mining-related activity, as demonstrated by employment data, per capita income, or other indicators of reduced economic activity attributable to such reduction; or

"(B)(i) that has historically relied on coal mining for a substantial portion of its economy; and

"(ii) in which the economic contribution of coal mining has significantly declined.

"(3) STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The project has been the subject of project planning under subsection (g) and has been the focus of collaboration, including partnerships, as appropriate, with interested persons or local organizations.

"(B) PUBLIC NOTICE.—As part of project planning, the public has been notified and has been given an opportunity to comment at a public meeting convened in a community near the proposed site.

"(4) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—The project has been proposed by entities of State, local, county, or tribal governments, or local organizations, and will be approved and executed by State or tribal programs, approved under section 405 or referred to in section 402(g)(8)(B), which may include subcontracting project-related activities, as appropriate.

"(d) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—

"(1) UNCERTIFIED STATES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—From the amount made available in subsection (b), the Secretary shall distribute \$195,000,000 annually for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021 to States and Indian tribes that have a State or tribal program approved under section 405 or are referred to in section 402(g)(8)(B), and have not made a certification under section 411(a) in

which the Secretary has concurred, as follows:

“(i) Four-fifths of such amount shall be distributed based on the proportion of the amount of coal historically produced in each State or from the lands of each Indian tribe concerned before August 3, 1977.

“(ii) One-fifth of such amount shall be distributed based on the proportion of reclamation fees paid during the period of fiscal years 2012 through 2016 for lands in each State or lands of each Indian tribe concerned.

“(B) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS.—Funds distributed under this section—

“(i) shall be in addition to, and shall not affect, the amount of funds distributed—

“(I) to States and Indian tribes under section 401(f); and

“(II) to States and Indian tribes that have made a certification under section 411(a) in which the Secretary has concurred, subject to the cap described in section 402(i)(3); and

“(ii) shall not reduce any funds distributed to a State or Indian tribe by reason of the application of section 402(g)(8).

“(2) ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO CERTAIN STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—

“(A) ELIGIBILITY.—From the amount made available in subsection (b), the Secretary shall distribute \$5,000,000 annually for each of the five fiscal years beginning with fiscal year 2017 to States and Indian tribes that have a State program approved under section 405 and have made a certification under section 411(a) in which the Secretary has concurred.

“(B) APPLICATION FOR FUNDS.—Using the process in section 405(f), any State or Indian tribe described in subparagraph (A) may submit a grant application to the Secretary for funds under this paragraph. The Secretary shall review each grant application to confirm that the projects identified in the application for funding are eligible under subsection (c).

“(C) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—The amount of funds distributed to each State or Indian tribe under this paragraph shall be determined by the Secretary based on the demonstrated need for the funding to accomplish the purpose of this section.

“(3) REALLOCATION OF UNCOMMITTED FUNDS.—

“(A) COMMITTED DEFINED.—For purposes of this paragraph the term ‘committed’—

“(i) means that funds received by the State or Indian tribe—

“(I) have been exclusively applied to or reserved for a specific project and therefore are not available for any other purpose; or

“(II) have been expended or designated by the State or Indian tribe for the completion of a project;

“(ii) includes use of any amount for project planning under subsection (g); and

“(iii) reflects an acknowledgment by Congress that, based on the documentation required under subsection (c)(2)(B), any unanticipated delays to commit such funds that are outside the control of the State or Indian tribe concerned shall not affect its allocations under this section.

“(B) FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021.—For each of fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the Secretary shall reallocate in accordance with subparagraph (D) any amount available for distribution under this subsection that has not been committed to eligible projects in the preceding 2 fiscal years, among the States and Indian tribes that have committed to eligible projects the full amount of their annual allocation for the preceding fiscal year.

“(C) FISCAL YEAR 2022.—For fiscal year 2022, the Secretary shall reallocate in accordance with subparagraph (D) any amount available for distribution under this subsection that has not been committed to eligible projects

or distributed under paragraph (1)(A), among the States and Indian tribes that have committed to eligible projects the full amount of their annual allocation for the preceding fiscal years.

“(D) AMOUNT OF REALLOCATION.—The amount reallocated to each State or Indian tribe under each of subparagraphs (B) and (C) shall be determined by the Secretary to reflect, to the extent practicable—

“(i) the proportion of unreclaimed eligible lands and waters the State or Indian tribe has in the inventory maintained under section 403(c);

“(ii) the average of the proportion of reclamation fees paid for lands in each State or lands of each Indian tribe concerned; and

“(iii) the proportion of coal mining employment loss incurred in the State or on lands of the Indian tribe, respectively, as determined by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, over the 5-year period preceding the fiscal year for which the reallocation is made.

“(e) RESOLUTION OF SECRETARY’S CONCERNS; CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary does not agree with a State or Indian tribe that a proposed project meets the criteria set forth in subsection (c)—

“(1) the Secretary and the State or tribe shall meet and confer for a period of not more than 45 days to resolve the Secretary’s concerns, except that such period may be shortened by the Secretary if the Secretary’s concerns are resolved;

“(2) during that period, at the State’s or Indian tribe’s request, the Secretary may consult with any appropriate Federal agency; and

“(3) at the end of that period, if the Secretary’s concerns are not resolved the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate an explanation of the concerns and such project proposal shall not be eligible for funds distributed under this section.

“(f) ACID MINE DRAINAGE TREATMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), a State or Indian tribe that receives funds under this section may use up to 30 percent of such funds as necessary to supplement the State’s or tribe’s acid mine drainage abatement and treatment fund established under section 402(g)(6)(A), for future operation and maintenance costs for the treatment of acid mine drainage associated with the individual projects funded under this section. A State or Indian tribe shall specify the total funds allotted for such costs in its application submitted under subsection (d)(2)(B).

“(2) CONDITION.—A State or Indian tribe may use funds under this subsection only if the State or tribe can demonstrate that the annual grant distributed to the State or tribe pursuant to section 401(f), including any interest from the State’s or tribe’s acid mine drainage abatement and treatment fund that is not used for the operation or maintenance of preexisting acid mine drainage treatment systems, is insufficient to fund the operation and maintenance of any acid mine drainage treatment system associated with an individual project funded under this section.

“(g) PROJECT PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION.—

“(1) STATES AND INDIAN TRIBES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A State or Indian tribe may use up to 10 percent of its annual distribution under this section for project planning and the costs of administering this section.

“(B) PLANNING REQUIREMENTS.—Planning under this paragraph may include—

“(i) identifying eligible projects;

“(ii) updating the inventory referred to in section 403(c);

“(iii) developing project designs;

“(iv) collaborating with stakeholders, including public meetings;

“(v) preparing cost estimates; or

“(vi) engaging in other similar activities necessary to facilitate reclamation activities under this section.

“(2) SECRETARY.—The Secretary may expend, from amounts made available to the Secretary under section 402(g)(3)(D), not more than \$3,000,000 during the fiscal years for which distributions occur under subsection (b) for staffing and other administrative expenses necessary to carry out this section.

“(h) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate at the end of each fiscal year for which such funds are distributed a detailed report—

“(1) on the various projects that have been undertaken with such funds;

“(2) the extent and degree of reclamation using such funds that achieved the priorities described in paragraph (1) or (2) of section 403(a);

“(3) the community and economic benefits that are resulting from, or are expected to result from, the use of the funds that achieved the priorities described in paragraph (3) of section 403(a); and

“(4) the reduction since the previous report in the inventory referred to in section 403(c).”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in the first section of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title IV the following:

“Sec. 416. Abandoned mine land economic revitalization.”

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 is amended—

(1) in section 401(c) (30 U.S.C. 1231(c)), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end of paragraph (10), by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (12), and by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

“(1) to implement section 416; and”;

(2) in section 401(d)(3) (30 U.S.C. 1231(d)(3)), by striking “subsection (f)” and inserting “subsection (f) and section 416(a)”;

(3) in section 402(g) (30 U.S.C. 1232(g))—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and section 416” after “subsection (h)”;

(B) by adding at the end of paragraph (3) the following:

“(F) For the purpose of section 416(d)(2)(A).”;

(4) in section 403(c) (30 U.S.C. 1233(c)), by inserting after the second sentence the following: “As practicable, States and Indian tribes shall offer such amendments based on the use of remote sensing, global positioning systems, and other advanced technologies.”

SEC. 4. MINIMUM STATE PAYMENTS.

Section 402(g)(8)(A) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1232(g)(8)) is amended by striking “\$3,000,000” and inserting “\$5,000,000”.

SEC. 5. GAO STUDY OF USE OF FUNDS.

Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall study and report to the Congress on uses of funds authorized by this Act, including regarding—

(1) the solvency of the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund; and

(2) the impact of such use on payments and transfers under the Surface Mining Control

and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201) to—

(A) States for which a certification has been made under section 411 of such Act (30 U.S.C. 1241);

(B) States for which such a certification has not been made; and

(C) transfers to United Mine Workers of America Combined Benefit Fund.

SEC. 6. ABANDONED MINE LAND RECLAMATION AND RESTORATION INITIATIVE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 145 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 14510. Abandoned mine land reclamation and restoration initiative

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Appalachian Regional Commission may provide technical assistance, make grants, enter into contracts, or otherwise provide amounts to individuals or entities in the Appalachian region for projects and activities on lands, or on or in waters, that have been reclaimed or restored with amounts provided under title IV of the Surface Mining Control or Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1231 et seq.) or that are eligible for such reclamation or restoration.

“(b) LIMITATION ON AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.—Of the cost of any activity eligible for a grant under this section—

“(1) not more than 50 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section; and

“(2) notwithstanding paragraph (1)—

“(A) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which a distressed county designation is in effect under section 14526, not more than 80 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section; and

“(B) in the case of a project to be carried out in a county for which an at-risk designation is in effect under section 14526, not more than 70 percent may be provided from amounts appropriated to carry out this section.

“(c) SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE.—Subject to subsection (b), a grant provided under this section may be provided from amounts made available to carry out this section in combination with amounts made available—

“(1) under any other Federal program; or

“(2) from any other source.

“(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share under any other Federal program, amounts made available to carry out this section may be used to increase that Federal share, as the Appalachian Regional Commission determines to be appropriate.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 145 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 14509 the following:

“14510. Abandoned mine land reclamation and restoration initiative.”.

SEC. 7. HEADQUARTERS OF APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Delta Regional Commission, the Denali Commission, and the Northern Border Regional Commission are each headquartered in their respective region; and

(2) the headquarters of the Appalachian Regional Commission should be relocated from the District of Columbia to a more affordable location in the Appalachian Region.

(b) LOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 14301 of title 40, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) HEADQUARTERS.—The headquarters of the Commission shall be located in the Appalachian Region.”.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Federal Cochairman of the Appalachian Regional Commis-

sion shall take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the amendment made by paragraph (1).

By Mr. KAINE:

S. 730. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of certain hydroelectric projects; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, today I am introducing a bipartisan, non-controversial, technical provision pertaining to two proposed hydroelectric projects at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dams in Virginia.

This bill would give the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, authority to extend commence-construction deadlines for the 3.7 MW project at Gathright Dam, FERC Project No. 12737, and the 1.8 MW project at Flannagan Dam, FERC Project No. 12740. The timelines for these projects have been set back due to challenges with securing Army Corps permits. FERC does not oppose this legislation, as the requested extensions are still within the overall 10-year window for extension of licensing deadlines. There is no known local opposition.

This provision was passed by the Senate last year as part of the Energy Policy Modernization Act, S. 2012. It was also introduced in the House by Representative MORGAN GRIFFITH and passed the full House separately. I am pleased to reintroduce the bill again today and hope the Energy & Natural Resources Committee and the full Senate will consider it soon.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 731. A bill to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I speak on behalf of myself and Senator HARRIS to reintroduce legislation to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area, California's first National Heritage Area. I am very pleased to work with Senator HARRIS, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, and our colleagues in the State on this much needed legislation. Our legislation will establish a new national heritage area in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to promote environmental stewardship, heritage conservation, and economic development across five delta counties.

The Delta Protection Commission will manage the heritage area in accordance with California law and in partnership with delta communities. The management planning process provided by this legislation will be open to the public and collaborative. Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, private property owners, and all stakeholders will have a voice in the management planning for the heritage area.

The goal is to conserve and protect the delta, its communities, its natural resources, and its rich history.

In short, this legislation does not affect water rights or water contracts, nor does it impose any additional responsibilities on local governments or private landowners. Instead, this legislation authorizes federal assistance to support local projects as part of an inclusive process required by State law.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the largest estuary in the Western United States and perhaps the most productive and ecologically important watershed in North America. This extensive inland delta is a natural marvel and national treasure that must be protected. The delta offers recreational opportunities enjoyed by millions of Californians and out-of-State visitors alike, who come each year for boating, fishing, hunting, and sightseeing.

The delta provides critical habitat for more than 750 wildlife species, including sandhill cranes and other migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway. It also provides habitat for iconic native fish like the chinook salmon, some as large as 60 pounds, which return each year to travel through the delta to spawn in tributaries upstream.

These same waterways provide freshwater to millions of California households and irrigated farmland south of the delta and elsewhere in the State.

Before being converted for farmland starting in the 19th century, the delta flooded regularly following the springtime snowmelt and once supported the continent's largest Native American communities.

Later, the delta served as the gateway for the California Gold Rush, after which Chinese immigrant workers built hundreds of miles of levees to make the delta's rich peat soils available for farming and to control flooding.

Japanese, Chinese, Italian, German, Portuguese, Dutch, Greek, South Asian, and other immigrants began the area's farming legacy and established proud communities that continue today.

Over the years, the vibrant “river culture” endemic to delta communities has attracted the attention of celebrated authors from Mark Twain and Jack London to Joan Didion.

A national heritage area designation would help to preserve this uniquely American story by providing supportive local governments across the delta with a needed management framework, technical assistance, and modest Federal funding.

Today, the delta faces crisis due to proliferate invasive species, urban and agricultural runoff, wastewater overloads, channelization, dredging, formidable water exports, and other stressors.

Many delta islands are now 10 to 20 feet below sea level due to subsidence, and the present levee system is inadequate in providing reliable flood protection for historic communities, agricultural enterprises, and infrastructure. Alarming, many existing levees were simply not engineered to withstand earthquakes. Should levees fail,

a rush of saltwater into the interior delta would damage this already fragile ecosystem, disrupt drinking water supplies, flood agricultural land, inundate towns, and damage roads, powerlines, and water infrastructure.

Establishing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area will secure much needed Federal resources for delta communities. Our legislation recognizes the delta as a working landscape central to California life and seeks to further local projects already underway that promote environmental stewardship, heritage conservation, community revitalization, and economic development throughout the delta.

This legislation also seeks to fulfill the broadly supported 2009 California State law that called for a heritage area designation for the delta and the Delta Protection Commission's own feasibility report in 2012.

Our legislation is a small part of the commitment the Federal Government must make to the California delta. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues at every level of government to restore the delta and its native species, upgrade California's water supply, safeguard against flood risk, improve water quality, and preserve delta communities' rich heritage and continued vibrancy.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 98—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2017 AS “NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. LEAHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 98

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer (such as mesothelioma), asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas generally, little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases may give some patients increased treatment options and might improve the prognoses of those patients;

Whereas the United States has substantially reduced the consumption of asbestos in the United States, yet the United States continues to consume tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products throughout the United States;

Whereas asbestos-related diseases have killed thousands of people in the United States;

Whereas while exposure to asbestos continues, safety and prevention of asbestos exposure has significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of asbestos-related diseases;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States die from asbestos-related diseases every year;

Whereas a significant percentage of all asbestos-related disease victims were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the designation of a “National Asbestos Awareness Week” will raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2017 as “National Asbestos Awareness Week”;

(2) urges the Surgeon General of the United States to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

SENATE RESOLUTION 99—RECOGNIZING THE 11 AFRICAN-AMERICAN SOLDIERS OF THE 333RD FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION WHO WERE MASSACRED IN WERETH, BELGIUM, DURING THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE IN DECEMBER 1944

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself and Mr. COTTON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 99

Whereas, in December 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium, soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion, an African-American unit of the Army, were operating in support of the 106th Infantry Division when the 106th Infantry Division and the soldiers from the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion were overrun;

Whereas, months after the Battle of the Bulge, the frozen bodies of 11 soldiers from the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion were found near the Belgian hamlet of Wereth;

Whereas the bodies of the 11 soldiers were—

(1) identified as James Stewart of West Virginia, Due Turner of Arkansas, Curtis Adams of South Carolina, Mager Bradley of Mississippi, George Davis, Jr. of Alabama, Thomas Forte of Mississippi, Robert Green of Georgia, James Leatherwood of Mississippi, Nathaniel Moss of Texas, George Motten of Texas, and William Pritchett of Alabama;

(2) examined by Army Medical Corps officials; and

(3) found to have been stabbed, shot, and struck by blunt force;

Whereas the massacre of the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion in Wereth remains unknown to the vast majority of the people of the United States;

Whereas, in 2004, a permanent monument in Wereth was dedicated to the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who lost their lives in Wereth during the Battle of the Bulge in the effort to defeat fascism and defend freedom; and

Whereas the 11 patriots have become known as the “Wereth 11”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate, on behalf of the United States, recognizes the dedicated service and ultimate sacrifice of the 11 African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who were massacred in Wereth, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.

SENATE RESOLUTION 100—CONDEMNING ILLEGAL RUSSIAN AGGRESSION IN UKRAINE ON THE THREE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 100

Whereas the illegal Russian military occupation of the Crimea region of Ukraine is an affront to international norms, an unprovoked aggression, and a threat to regional stability;

Whereas Russian President Vladimir V. Putin has a history of regional aggression, including the Russian invasion of the South Ossetia and Abkhazia regions of the Georgia in 2008 and intervention in favor of the breakaway region of Transnistria in Moldova in 1991-1992;

Whereas Article II of the Charter of the United Nations states that “all members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state”;

Whereas, in 1994, the United States, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and Ukraine signed the Budapest Memorandum, in which all parties pledged to respect and uphold Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity in exchange for Ukraine voluntarily giving up the world's third-largest nuclear arsenal, which it inherited following the collapse of the Soviet Union;

Whereas a failure of the United States to uphold the terms of the Budapest Memorandum would have significant consequences for the credibility of United States guarantees related to nuclear nonproliferation and undermine America's commitment to the principle of the inviolability of national borders;

Whereas an association agreement between Ukraine and the European Union was signed in 2014, a move which will strengthen ties with Europe and which President Poroshenko described as Ukraine's “most important day” since it secured its independence in 1991;

Whereas, on February 28, 2014, Russian forces in unmarked uniforms occupied strategic civil and military infrastructure in Crimea and provided support to pro-Russian militias and activists as part of a coordinated strategy to seize control of Crimea and create the illusion of an organic, local rebellion against oppressive Ukrainian authorities;