

The key provisions of the bill would permanently reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, NEHRP; remove outdated language related to earthquake prediction and instead emphasizes the continued development of earthquake early-warning systems through the Advanced National Seismic System; require the production of a set of maps showing active faults and folds, liquefaction susceptibility, and other hazards that can be induced by an earthquake, such as landslides; reduce various administrative burdens for Federal agencies that are disruptive to the essential mission of the program and improves data sharing between agencies; enhance coordination among Federal agencies and with State agencies; provide clear direction to the four Federal agencies charged with overseeing NEHRP—the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the National Science Foundation—to continue working with States and private sector experts on performance-based design features; direct the Federal Emergency Management Agency to implement a grant program to assist States with incorporating earthquakes in their hazard reduction portfolios; and direct the completion of a comprehensive assessment of the Nation's earthquake risk reduction progress, as well as remaining areas that require more funding.

The bill has the support of a wide array of groups, including the American Institute of Architects, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Association of American State Geologists, the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, the Geological Society of America, the National Council of Structural Engineers Association, the National Emergency Management Association, the Seismological Society of America, and the Structural Engineers Association of California. I thank those groups for supporting this bill.

We have made much progress to create a more earthquake-resilient nation, but we can do more. This bill provides a positive step forward to ensure that we build on the work that has already been done and continue investing in policies that reduce the risk to life, property, and livelihoods as a result of an earthquake.

I thank the Senators who have joined me in cosponsoring this bill, and I urge the full Senate to promptly take up this bill and pass it as soon as possible.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE CARTER COUNTY MUSEUM

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week, I have the distinct honor of recognizing the Carter County Museum in Ekalaka, MT. The Carter County Museum is a treasure to our State and well worth the time to stop in and visit

if you are traveling through eastern Montana.

The Carter County Museum has helped preserve the history of eastern Montana for over 80 years and was the first county museum in the State. This region of our State is known for plentiful dinosaur discoveries, and one of the exhibits at the Carter County Museum includes a complete skull of a Triceratops. Recent regional history is also on display at the museum. Artifacts from American Indian Tribes and late 19th century homesteaders help visitors gain a deeper appreciation for the history of the 41st State to join the Union.

Over the past two summers, members of the museum's staff have used their expertise to help recover the remains of a Columbian mammoth along the Powder River. Just last month, the staff unearthed a mostly intact skull, including both tusks. It is uncommon to find a museum that offers such a unique collection of rare exhibits outside of a major population center, but that is precisely what you will find at the Carter County Museum.

Eastern Montana, widely recognized for its contributions to our Nation in the areas of agriculture and energy, is also home to many items of cultural significance. Local gems like the Carter County Museum and all of the folks that make its day-to-day operations possible help make Montana an exceptional place.●

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN CARIBOU, MAINE

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the 30th anniversary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic, CBOC, in Caribou, ME.

Aroostook County in northern Maine is known as the Crown of Maine. It is not just a delineation of the geography of Maine, but a designation of leadership. That leadership is nowhere more apparent than in the story of the Caribou CBOC and the veterans who fought for years to bring it into existence. Meo Bosse, John Rowe, Raphael "Ray" Guerrette, Percy Thibeault, Wesley Adams, Walter Corey, and Leonard Woods, Sr., did not necessarily imagine that their vision would grow from a first in the Nation clinic to a network of nearly a thousand CBOCs assisting millions of rural veterans; they just saw a need that they could help fill.

Since 1987, the Caribou CBOC has been providing veterans with physical, mental health, and administrative services. When it was established, it was the first of Togus's community based outpatient clinics and the first rural VA clinic in our Nation.

It is the commitment of individuals like these veterans in rural Maine and countless others that have carried the

standard alongside and after that has helped the VA extend its reach and care to rural veterans across the country.

CBOCs and changing models of care for veterans have become vital in how the VA more seamlessly delivers care to those that have answered the call of duty. The partnerships with rural hospitals like CARY Medical Center have enabled more responsive care to our Nation's veterans and deepened ties within these communities. It gives me great pleasure that the Crown of Maine showed the way for hundreds of other sites around the country and that CARY and the veterans of northern Maine continue to support new opportunities to strengthen the networks of care for our veterans.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:30 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3388. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, regarding the authority of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration over highly automated vehicles, to provide safety measures for such vehicles, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3388. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, regarding the authority of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration over highly automated vehicles, to provide safety measures for such vehicles, and for other purposes to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following joint resolution was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 49. Joint resolution condemning the violence and domestic terrorist attack that took place during events between August 11 and August 12, 2017 in Charlottesville,