

which is owned by the United States and managed by the Bureau of Reclamation in the Department of the Interior.

The Contra Costa Canal System involves 48 miles of earthen canals with about 30 miles of laterals which deliver water to cities from the canal. Although the canal has been maintained, it poses a safety and flood risk. Notwithstanding significant security fencing, 81 people have tragically been drowned since the canal was placed into service and hundreds of others have been rescued.

The bill I am introducing today would transfer title to the canal system to CCWD so it can begin the process of replacing this old, earthen canal with a secure buried pipeline. The conversion of the canal to a pipeline will cost CCWD approximately \$650 million.

CCWD has already repaid Reclamation for costs of constructing the project. After title transfer of the canal is completed, CCWD would remain a CVP M&I customer as set forth in the Long-term Renewal Contract between the United States and CCWD providing for Project Water Service and for Facilities Repayment (Contract No. I75r-3401 A-LTR1 May 10, 2005) (CVP Contract). This title transfer bill was anticipated in Article 28.3 of the CVP Contract which allows for transfer of title to the Contra Costa Canal System upon repayment of all outstanding capitalized costs of the facilities and upon authorization of Congress.

Before title transfer occurs, there will be further environmental review, including compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA) and National Historical Preservation Act (NHPA).

Title Transfer will result in lower costs and reduced administrative burden, provide greater flexibility in management of the asset, and will eliminate flood and other safety concerns. When the canal was originally built, there was no one around it. Now there are many homes and neighborhood along both sides of the structure. If the canal were to fail as has occurred with other earthen canals, homes would be flooded, and millions of dollars of property would be destroyed.

Title transfer would transfer this health and safety liability for the canal to CCWD. Reclamation also benefits through lower costs and reduced administrative burden. Currently, work on the Canal System requires varying levels of coordination and documentation with Reclamation for planning, design, project implementation, maintenance, and operation.

CCWD has been responsible for O&M of the Canal System for almost 50 years and its staff is intimately familiar with the system. CCWD ownership of the Canal System would eliminate much of this duplicative consultation. CCWD now finds it is doing much of the same work Reclamation conducts in its oversight and review responsibilities.

Third parties including local cities, Contra Costa County, local and regional agencies, including recreation partners, and utilities working within the Canal System rights-of-way all of whom would also benefit from removing the additional layer of federal review and approval bureaucracy that increases costs and causes schedule delays. I understand that the other local partners have all expressed support for this legislation.

Title Transfer to CCWD would also relieve the United States of any risk of canal failure due to erosion or earthquake.

Ultimately, CCWD is seeking authorization to transfer title to all Project Works associated with the Contra Costa Canal Unit. Construction of the Rock Slough Fish Screen was completed by the Bureau of Reclamation in 2011, and the bill I am introducing today would direct the transfer of title of Rock Slough Fish Screen following a mutual agreement on the transfer between CCWD and Reclamation.

Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) operates three screened intakes in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta—Rock Slough, Old River and Middle River. CCWD owns the latter two; the US Bureau of Reclamation owns Rock Slough. Operations at all three intakes are covered by the biological opinions on the long-term operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project (USFWS 2008 and NMFS 2009) as well as separate opinions obtained for the original Los Vaqueros Project and the Middle River Intake under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

The Central Valley Project Improvement Act (1992) and the Los Vaqueros Project Biological Opinions (BOs) required the Rock Slough intake to be screened. BOs from USFWS and NMFS were obtained for construction and operation of the fish screen. A transfer of ownership of the Rock Slough intake and fish screen will not affect the applicability of the various biological opinions that apply to the facility.

The primary stakeholders involve recreation and include the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), City of Antioch, and City of Walnut Creek. EBRPD operates recreation facilities along the Contra Costa Canal (trails) and at the Contra Loma Reservoir.

CCWD and EBRPD executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in December 2017 that commits both agencies to work together to obtain authorization from Congress for title transfer of the Project Works to CCWD.

The City of Antioch and Walnut Creek operate a Sports Complex and trails, respectively, under management agreements with Reclamation. The management agreements would be amended and assigned to CCWD, and CCWD will provide for the continuation of recreation at these facilities by the cities.

The City of Concord and the EBRPD have expressed interest in the Clayton

Canal. The Clayton Canal traverses the former Concord Naval Weapons Station which is being developed to support civilian uses by the City of Concord. EBRPD is also developing a regional park and conservation area within the former Naval Station property. The Clayton Canal is no longer used by CCWD and title transfer would support the efficient disposal of the facility.

In summary, Mr. President, I believe title transfer is a sensible measure that will reduce flood and public safety risk by facilitating the conversion of the current earthen canal to a closed pipeline. Title transfer will also improve administrative efficiencies on the operation of the canal, and reduce the administrative burden on the federal government.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill. Thank you, Mr. President, and I yield the floor.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 535—RE-AFFIRMING THE UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. Kaine, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 535

Whereas the United States, Canada, Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, and the United Kingdom in 1949 signed the North Atlantic Treaty, which led to the foundation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO);

Whereas NATO was created to deter Soviet expansionism, promote international peace, stability, and security, and prevent the re-emergence of nationalist militarism in Europe through a strong North American presence and a closer trans-Atlantic alliance;

Whereas, since the formation of NATO, the alliance has expanded to 29 members, with others still aspiring to join;

Whereas NATO is a vital component of the United States-led post-World War II international order that has made the world safer and more prosperous;

Whereas the aid and security umbrella the United States provided through NATO after World War II helped restore political stability and enabled an economic resurgence in Western Europe;

Whereas, during the Cold War, NATO helped unify the Western alliance and successfully deter Soviet threats;

Whereas NATO conducted its first major crisis response operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, resulting in the Dayton Peace Accords and facilitating the country's reconstruction in the wake of the 1992-1995 war;

Whereas NATO contributed to the cessation of the 1998-1999 Kosovo conflict through security, stabilization, and humanitarian efforts;

Whereas NATO has served as an essential element of United States national security and a deterrent against external threats for 69 years;

Whereas Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty is an integral part of NATO and states that “[t]he Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all”;

Whereas the first and only time to date NATO invoked Article 5 was less than 24 hours after the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001;

Whereas NATO allies and partners, including NATO aspirant countries Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Macedonia, and Ukraine, joined in assuring the security of the United States and the international community by serving alongside United States forces in Afghanistan since 2001;

Whereas more than 1,100 NATO ally and partner military personnel in Afghanistan have lost their lives, and thousands have been injured in service to the collective defense guarantee of NATO;

Whereas multiple NATO members participated in the coalition against ISIS by providing either military or humanitarian assistance;

Whereas, in the face of a burgeoning vacuum in global leadership, Russia is aggressively testing Western democracies, including through ongoing malicious cyber war capabilities;

Whereas Russia continues to challenge NATO, including by—

(1) deploying cruise missiles, violating the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty;

(2) executing a suspected poisonous gas attack against Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia within the borders of the United Kingdom;

(3) occupying with military forces the sovereign territory of the European nations of Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova;

(4) waging cyberattacks against the United States and Europe, especially the Baltics, in an effort to undermine democracy and defraud national elections;

(5) conducting the largest iteration ever of the Zapad, an annual military exercise, in Belarus with an estimated 60,000 to 70,000 troops in an excessive show of military force close to NATO borders and in violation of the 2011 Vienna Document;

(6) forcing Latvia, a NATO member, to close down its commercial airspace due to ongoing Russian military drills in the Baltic Sea;

(7) flying two Russian bombers within 30 miles of United Kingdom airspace; and

(8) flying Russian aircraft more than 110 times above or near the Baltic Sea in a marked increase since its annexation of Crimea, including flying a Russian jet within five feet of a United States reconnaissance plane flying in international airspace;

Whereas the Government of Russia has continuously propped up President of Syria Bashar al-Assad and supported atrocities in Syria, including the use of violence and illegal chemical weapons against civilians, resulting in the deaths of more than 400,000 Syrians and the displacement of 10,000,000 others during Syria's seven year civil war;

Whereas the displacement of millions of Syrians has contributed to the worst migrant and refugee crisis since World War II, with many Syrian refugees undertaking perilous journeys to escape war and resettle in territories of NATO allies;

Whereas, during the presidency of Barack Obama, NATO deployed greater resources and personnel to its eastern members in response to and to deter further Russian aggression;

Whereas President Donald J. Trump has caused disquieting fissures in the trans-Atlantic alliance, undermining faith in institutions and policies that comprise the post-World War II international order;

Whereas President Trump's wavering and inconsistent statements about NATO have resulted in alliance members questioning the commitment of the United States to the alliance rather than focusing on the multitude of threats NATO faces on both sides of the Atlantic;

Whereas, during the campaign for the United States presidency, then-candidate Trump repeatedly referred to the NATO alliance as “obsolete”;

Whereas candidate Trump on July 20, 2016, also said if Russia attacked Baltic NATO members, he would only offer support—a key tenet of the NATO charter—after reviewing if those nations had “fulfilled their obligations to us”;

Whereas, the next day, John Bolton said of the jarring comment, “I hope that Donald Trump retracts it.”;

Whereas President Trump subverted allied interests and flouted intelligence norms by reportedly revealing highly classified information to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Ambassador Sergey Kislyak on May 10, 2017, in the Oval Office of the White House;

Whereas, during the 2017 NATO summit, President Trump alarmed allies by failing to commit publicly to honoring Article 5 if a United States ally is attacked;

Whereas President Trump's misguided withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement puts the United States at odds with every other country on earth and ignores the climate change-related national security risks highlighted in a 2017 NATO report;

Whereas President Trump imposed unilateral import tariffs on European steel and aluminum, further straining trans-Atlantic trade relations while possibly placing the United States in violation of World Trade Organization rules;

Whereas President Trump has acted anti-thetically to the NATO alliance by seemingly ignoring and dismissing malign Russian actions against the United States and its allies;

Whereas the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, China, Germany, and Iran finalized the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on July 14, 2015, to end Iran's nuclear weapons program;

Whereas Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Joseph Dunford stated on September 26, 2017, that the United States intelligence community assessment was that Iran was in compliance with the agreement;

Whereas Secretary of Defense James Mattis stated, under oath before Congress on October 3, 2017, that the JCPOA is in America's national security interest and the United States should consider remaining party to the agreement;

Whereas the head of United States Central Command, Joseph Votel, stated on March 13, 2018, that the JCPOA addresses one of the principal threats we face from Iran and it is in America's best interest to remain a party to the agreement;

Whereas the then-Central Intelligence Agency Director and Secretary of State nominee Mike Pompeo stated on April 12, 2018, that there was no evidence of Iranian noncompliance with the agreement;

Whereas, despite these statements, overwhelming evidence, and the appeals from several NATO allies, President Trump reinstated sanctions on the Government of Iran and unilaterally withdrew the United States from the JCPOA on May 8, 2018;

Whereas the ill-advised withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA and ensuing threats of related sanctions against its NATO allies immediately sowed further discord in the trans-Atlantic relationship and created an exploitable crack in the armor of the greatest military alliance in the world

by eroding the trust of NATO member countries in the United States;

Whereas the leaders of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom issued a joint statement on May 8, 2018, expressing regret about the United States decision, further damaging the alliance and plunging the global order into crisis;

Whereas European Council President Donald Tusk on May 16, 2018, rebuked President Trump for deteriorating relations between the United States and European allies, stating the European Union is no longer under any illusions that the United States is a trustworthy friend;

Whereas hostile nations will seek to exploit the strained relationship between the United States and its NATO allies, specifically bolstering Russia's multifaceted strategy of fraying the relationships between NATO allies for its own benefit; and

Whereas alliance leaders will come together July 11–12, 2018, in Brussels for a summit to further strengthen trans-Atlantic unity and delineate strategies to respond to evolving Russian threats: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the long-standing and steadfast commitment of the United States to the NATO alliance, including Article V of the North Atlantic Treaty;

(2) recognizes that NATO continues to meet emerging and contemporary threats to the United States and its allies, and serves as a critical deterrent to Russia's destabilizing activities, including through innovation such as the creation of a Cyber Operations Center and collective action such as the Enhanced Forward Presence mission;

(3) encourages the United States Government to accept the recommendation of our NATO allies to combat jointly Russian cyber warfare;

(4) honors the men and women who have served under NATO and promoted peace, security, and international cooperation since 1949;

(5) encourages Congress to promote the NATO alliance and trans-Atlantic ties whenever possible;

(6) urges President Trump to unequivocally and definitively reaffirm the United States' commitment to the trans-Atlantic alliance and to counter Russian aggression, especially at the July NATO summit in Brussels; and

(7) reaffirms the critical importance and security mission of NATO to the United States, its allies, and the trans-Atlantic partnership.

SENATE RESOLUTION 536—TO AUTHORIZE DOCUMENT PRODUCTION BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

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

S. RES. 536

Whereas, the United States Department of Justice has requested that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence provide it with records in connection with a pending investigation arising out of allegations of the unauthorized disclosure of information;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;