

in California that are at serious risk of catastrophic fire.

If treatments of these lands restore healthier ecological conditions, it will improve water runoff into the downstream reservoirs and reduce the risk of large sedimentation dumps into the reservoirs from catastrophic fires.

Restoration of these lands may not be a top priority for the Forest Service because that agency's mission does not emphasize water benefits.

The bill being introduced today would authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to contribute a portion of the cost of these projects. The new funding source will in turn make these multi-benefit projects more likely to be implemented.

I believe it is critical that we develop new tools like this one for reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires, and improving our drought resiliency.

I and the other cosponsors of today's bill are also looking for additional ways to increase the natural environment's resiliency to droughts in our states. We have circulated language for discussion and potential inclusion in the bill that would provide additional funding for "natural water storage projects."

These projects would help restore stream and river channels with natural materials like wetlands. Like many other projects prioritized by the bill, these projects could have multiple benefits, including increased groundwater recharge, improved flood protection, and increased floodplain habitat to benefit salmon and other species.

We look forward to receiving comments on ways to prioritize multi-benefit projects like natural water storage projects as we move forward with the bill.

In addition, the bill makes clear that it must be implemented consistently with all federal environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Water Act and all other environmental laws. All applicable state laws must also be followed.

Offsets: Finally, the bill includes two provisions offsetting the new spending authorizations within it:

It extends the existing WIIN Act provisions allowing water districts to prepay their outstanding capital debts and convert to indefinite length water supply contracts. These provisions are expected to bring in additional revenue within the 10-year scoring window.

It sets up a process to deauthorize inactive water recycling project authorizations.

Conclusion: California is home to more than 40 million people, but our major state-wide water infrastructure hasn't significantly changed in the past 50 years, when we had only 16 million people.

We must modernize the system or we risk becoming a desert state.

I believe that this bill will place California on a long-term path to drought resiliency. Critically, this means put-

ting in place infrastructure to allow our cities, our farmers, and our natural communities to withstand the severe droughts that we are projected to face due to climate change.

I hope my Western colleagues will join me and the others who have introduced this bill, because drought is a serious threat for all of our states. Thank you, Mr. President, and I yield the floor.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 254—COMMEMORATING JUNE 20, 2019, AS "WORLD REFUGEE DAY"

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CARPER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. REED, Ms. SMITH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 254

Whereas World Refugee Day is a global day to acknowledge the courage, strength, and determination of women, men, and children who are forced to flee their homes due to persecution;

Whereas, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (referred to in this preamble as "UNHCR") and the Refugee Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-212), a refugee is someone who—

(1) is outside of the country of his or her nationality; and

(2) is unable or unwilling to return because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group;

Whereas according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—

(1) there are more than 70,800,000 displaced people worldwide, the worst displacement crisis in global history, including 25,900,000 refugees, more than 41,300,000 internally displaced people, and 3,500,000 asylum seekers;

(2) the refugee population under UNHCR's mandate has nearly doubled since 2012;

(3) 67 percent of the world's refugees come from just 5 countries: Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Burma, and Somalia;

(4) children account for about ½ of the refugee population in the world, millions of whom are unable to access basic services including education;

(5) 13,600,000 individuals were newly displaced due to conflict or persecution in 2018, including 10,800,000 internally displaced persons and 2,800,000 refugees and asylum seekers, an average of 37,000 people per day;

(6) more than ½ of Syrians lived in displacement in 2018, either displaced across international borders or within their own country;

(7) for the fourth consecutive year, Lebanon hosted the largest number of refugees relative to its population, where 1 in 6 people are refugees;

(8) more than 1,400,000 refugees were in need of resettlement to a third country in 2018; and

(9) 25 countries admitted 92,400 refugees for resettlement in 2018;

Whereas refugee children are 5 times more likely to be out of school than nonrefugee children;

Whereas refugees who are women and children are often at greater risk of violence, human trafficking, exploitation, and gender-based violence;

Whereas the United States resettlement program is a life-saving solution critical to global humanitarian efforts, which serves to strengthen global security, advance United States foreign policy goals, and support regional host countries, while assisting individuals and families in need;

Whereas, during the first 6 months of fiscal year 2019, the United States welcomed 12,155 refugees into the country, which is fewer than 50 percent of the administration's refugee admissions goal of 30,000 refugees;

Whereas, at this pace, the United States may not meet its fiscal year 2019 refugee admissions goal;

Whereas refugees are the most vetted traveler to enter the United States and are subject to extensive screening checks, including in person interviews, biometric data checks, and multiple interagency checks;

Whereas refugees are major contributors to local economies, pay an average of \$21,000 more in taxes than they receive in benefits, and revitalize cities and towns by offsetting population decline and boosting economic growth throughout the country by opening businesses, paying taxes, and buying homes; and

Whereas several industries rely heavily on refugee workers to support their economic stability, and low rates of arrivals of refugees, especially in towns that rely on refugee populations to revitalize their industries, has had serious impacts on economic growth: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms the bipartisan commitment of the United States to promote the safety, health, and well-being of the millions of refugees, including the education of refugee children and displaced persons who flee war, persecution, or torture in search of peace, hope, and freedom;

(2) recognizes those individuals who have risked their lives working individually and for nongovernmental organizations and international agencies, such as UNHCR, to provide life-saving assistance and protection for people displaced by conflicts around the world;

(3) underscores the importance of the United States refugee resettlement program as a critical tool for United States global leadership—

(A) to leverage foreign policy;

(B) to strengthen national and regional security; and

(C) to demonstrate international support of refugees;

(4) calls upon the United States Government—

(A) to continue providing robust funding for refugee protection overseas and resettlement in the United States;

(B) to uphold its international leadership role in responding to displacement crises with humanitarian assistance and protection of the most vulnerable populations;

(C) to work in partnership with the international community to find solutions to existing conflicts and prevent new conflicts from beginning;

(D) to alleviate the burden placed on frontline refugee host countries, such as the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, that absorb the majority of the world's refugees

through humanitarian and development support;

(E) to meet the challenges of the worst refugee crisis in recorded history by increasing the number of refugees welcomed to and resettled in the United States to not fewer than 30,000 refugees during fiscal year 2019 and not fewer than 95,000 refugees during fiscal year 2020; and

(F) to reaffirm its long-standing tradition of resettling the most vulnerable refugees, regardless of their country of origin or religious beliefs; and

(5) reaffirms the goals of World Refugee Day and reiterates the strong commitment to protect the millions of refugees who live without material, social, or legal protections.

SENATE RESOLUTION 255—RECOGNIZING JUNE 2019 AS “IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH”, A CELEBRATION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN HAVE MADE IN SHAPING THE HISTORY, STRENGTHENING THE ECONOMY, AND ENRICHING THE CULTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 255

Whereas the United States has always been a Nation of immigrants, and throughout the history of the United States, immigrants and their children from around the world have kept the workforce in the United States vibrant and businesses in the United States on the cutting edge, and helped to build the greatest economic engine in the world;

Whereas the entrepreneurial drive and spirit of the United States is built on a diversity of origins;

Whereas the American dream first drew people to the United States and continues to drive business in the United States;

Whereas the success of the United States is a result of the many distinct experiences of the people of the United States, not in spite of it;

Whereas, as a Nation of immigrants, we must remember the generations of pioneers that helped lay the railroads and build cities, develop new industries, and fuel innovation and the exchange of ideas;

Whereas immigrants start more than a quarter of all new businesses in the United States, and immigrants and their children start more than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies;

Whereas these businesses collectively employ tens of millions of people in the United States and generate more than \$5,500,000,000,000 in annual revenue;

Whereas immigrants enhance the productive capacity of the United States economy and contribute approximately \$2,000,000,000,000, or about 10 percent of annual gross domestic product of the United States;

Whereas immigrants in the United States contribute greatly to advances in technology and sciences;

Whereas 16 percent of all employed college graduates and 54.5 percent of individuals with a Ph.D. working in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math are immigrants;

Whereas, between 2006 and 2012, 44 percent of new tech startups in Silicon Valley, widely known as the international hub for technological development and innovation, had at least 1 immigrant founder;

Whereas immigrants in the United States plant, cultivate, and harvest the rich diversity of agriculture products available today from the farmlands of the United States;

Whereas each immigrant farm employee supports 2 to 3 full-time jobs in processing, transportation, and retail;

Whereas immigrants involved in agricultural production aid in the food security and independence of the United States;

Whereas the work of immigrants has directly enriched the culture of the United States by influencing the performing arts from Broadway to Hollywood, as well as academia, art, music, literature, media, fashion, cuisine, customs, and cultural celebrations enjoyed across the United States;

Whereas generations of immigrants have come to the United States from all corners of the world, and many immigrants tirelessly fought for the independence of the United States, defending the ideals of the country;

Whereas more than 30,000 lawful permanent residents are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas, since 2002, more than 102,000 men and women, including individuals serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, South Korea, Germany, Japan, and elsewhere, have become citizens while serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas Congress represents a rich diversity of communities across the United States and works closely with a variety of diaspora leaders from more than 60 ethnic caucuses to ensure that the voices of United States citizens from all backgrounds are heard; and

Whereas the United States was founded on the universal promise that we are all created equal: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes June 2019 as “Immigrant Heritage Month” in honor of the accomplishments and role of immigrants and their children in shaping the history and culture of the United States;

(2) pledges to celebrate immigrant contributions to, and immigrant heritage in, each State;

(3) welcomes immigrants and their children to find their place in the vibrant, multi-ethnic, and integrated society of the United States; and

(4) encourages the people of the United States to always remember the immigrant roots of the United States and to commemorate the immigrant communities that continue to move the country forward.

SENATE RESOLUTION 256—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF JUNE 16 THROUGH JUNE 23, 2019, AS “NATIONAL GI BILL COMMEMORATION WEEK” AND CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SERVICEMEN’S READJUSTMENT ACT OF 1944

Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. TESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:

S. RES. 256

Whereas, on July 28, 1943, in seeking a solution to integrate returning members of the Armed Forces into civilian life, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called for a comprehensive set of veterans benefits during a

fireside chat saying, “While concentrating on military victory, we are not neglecting the planning of the things to come Among many other things we are, today, laying plans for the return to civilian life of our gallant men and women in the Armed Services.”;

Whereas, on June 22, 1944, in demonstration of the full support of the United States for the transition of members of the Armed Forces to civilian life, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 (58 Stat. 284, chapter 268), more commonly known as the “G.I. Bill of Rights”;

Whereas the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 was the culmination of the tireless work and advocacy of veteran service organizations and Members of Congress;

Whereas the Act made immediate financial support, transformative educational benefits, and home loan guarantees available to the 16,000,000 veterans who served in the Armed Forces during World War II;

Whereas the Act helped approximately 7,800,000 veterans enroll in post-secondary education or training, helped to democratize higher education in the United States, and caused total post-secondary education enrollment to grow exponentially from 1,676,856 in 1945, with veterans accounting for 5.2 percent of total post-secondary education enrollment, to 2,338,226 in 1947, with veterans accounting for 49.2 percent of the total;

Whereas the Act contributed approximately 450,000 engineers, 240,000 accountants, 238,000 teachers, 91,000 scientists, 67,000 doctors, 122,000 dentists, 17,000 writers and editors, and thousands of other professionals to the workforce of the United States and expanded the middle class more than at any other point in the history of the United States;

Whereas the Act expressed the duty, responsibility, and desire of a grateful United States to see to it that those who served on active duty in the Armed Forces are afforded every opportunity to become disciplined forces for prosperity and progress in the United States through economic opportunity and investment;

Whereas Congress passed subsequent Acts to provide educational assistance to new generations of veterans, including the Veterans’ Readjustment Benefits Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-358), the Post-Vietnam Era Veterans’ Educational Assistance Act of 1977 (title IV of Public Law 94-502), the Veterans’ Educational Assistance Act of 1984 (title VII of Public Law 98-525), the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 (title V of Public Law 110-252), and the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-48);

Whereas, since the signing of the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, the Department of Veterans Affairs has paid approximately \$400,000,000,000 in educational assistance to approximately 25,000,000 veterans and their loved ones who continue to excel academically in post-secondary education;

Whereas the Act created the Department of Veterans Affairs Home Loan Guarantee program, which, since 1944, has provided a pathway for approximately 24,000,000 veterans to purchase a home guaranteed by the Department, the majority of which are purchased with no down payment;

Whereas the Act improved health care opportunities for veterans by transferring medical facilities from the Army and the Navy and providing funding for hospitals of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas this combination of opportunities changed the social and economic fabric of the United States for the better, with a 1988 report from the Subcommittee on Education