

of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

3. A determination has been made that Morocco can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Morocco.

TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM WALLACE COVINGTON

Ms. SINEMA, Madam President, I rise today to honor the esteemed career and public service of Dr. William Wallace Covington, who is retiring as regents' professor of forestry at Northern Arizona University, NAU.

As founder and director of NAU's Ecological Restoration Institute, Dr. Covington's research has substantially contributed to our understanding of the conditions necessary to maintain healthy forest ecosystems. His demonstrations that selective thinning and controlled fires may mitigate more intense, destructive fires have undoubtedly helped save significant swathes of southwestern ponderosa pine forests, including those found in Arizona.

Dr. Covington was recognized as an Outstanding Teaching Scholar by NAU, and received the Biswell Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for Fire Ecology, has testified before both congressional and State natural resource committees and advised a former Chief of the U.S. Forest Service and former Secretary of the Interior. Dr. Covington's dedication to novel research and evidence-driven outcomes has been essential in safeguarding our communities from uncontrolled fires.

I thank Dr. Covington for his years of dedicated work and public service on behalf of Arizona, the Southwest, and the American people.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter from Bruce Babbitt recognizing Dr. Covington.

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

JANUARY 26, 2019.

Hon. KYRSTEN SINEMA,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MARTHA MCSALLY,
U.S. Senator,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR SINEMA AND SENATOR MCSALLY: I write to support Congressional recognition of the remarkable career and public service of Professor Wallace Covington who is retiring as Regents Professor of Forestry at Northern Arizona University.

Professor Covington's work came to my attention back in 1993. At the Interior Department we were confronted with a rapid increase in large, destructive fires in the western ponderosa forest in the Southwest. In response to a proposal from Covington, the Department dedicated an extensive forest tract at Mt. Trumbull north of the Grand Canyon for large scale experimentation, and we began to fund his work.

What emerged from the Mt. Trumbull experiment was a new understanding of pre-settlement open forests that were maintained free of dense thickets and underbrush by frequent, low intensity natural fires. Following European settlement, these natural forests became overly dense as a result of fire suppression and over grazing. With so much unnatural fuel accumulation, forest fires have become more intense, widespread and destructive.

Covington's work at Mount Trumbull demonstrated that these forests could be brought back to a more natural condition by a carefully controlled process of selective thinning and the application of low intensity prescribed fire.

Covington has since taken his academic work to the policy level by organizing support for large scale restoration programs. The Congress, with leadership from Senator Kyl, has supported creation of the Ecological Restoration Institute at Northern Arizona University and comparable centers at Colorado State University and New Mexico Highlands University.

This work continues today with support from local governments and environmental groups. An example is the 4FRI project, a twenty year restoration project across several million acres in northern Arizona, managed by the Forest Service with support from the Congress and a broad coalition of state and federal agencies, local communities and environmental organizations.

Covington's work is an outstanding example of science in action under leadership from a dedicated public servant, forging consensus policy changes that are now restoring forests, and safeguarding communities from uncontrolled wildfire.

His work and advocacy has been of inestimable benefit to the American people.

Sincerely,

BRUCE BABBITT.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING PRESTIGE AMERITECH

• Mr. RUBIO, Madam President, as chairman of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit, which drives our economy. This week, it is my pleasure to honor Prestige Ameritech of North Richland Hills, TX, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

When Kimberly-Clark Corporation closed its medical protective gear manufacturing facilities in the United States, Dan Reese and Mike Bowen sought to revitalize this critical industry. Since 2006, Dan and Mike have led Prestige Ameritech, which specializes in manufacturing high-quality medical protective gear. During the H1N1 swine flu epidemic in 2009, Prestige Ameritech worked around the clock to produce critical protective equipment, including N95 respirators, medical face shields, and medical goggles. As the epidemic subsided, Prestige Ameritech struggled as its clients returned to foreign products instead of continuing to support this vital industry. Dozens of workers were laid off as the company fought to survive.

Now, 14 years later, Prestige Ameritech is the largest domestic sur-

gical mask manufacturer, employing about 100 workers. They are certified as an FDA Registered Facility, HUBZone, and a certified Native American Owned Business. As a leading advocate of medical supply chain security, Prestige Ameritech supports development of the medical industrial sector in the United States. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, more than 90 percent of surgical masks sold in the United States are manufactured overseas. If a public health emergency arose, Dan and Mike have warned, disruptions in mask supply could endanger millions of Americans.

For over a decade, since the H1N1 swine flu epidemic, Prestige Ameritech has strengthened industry partnerships and warned government officials of the dangers of exporting our medical industrial capacity. As part of the Secure Mask Supply Association—SMSA—Prestige Ameritech works with domestically owned and operated surgical and respirator mask manufacturers to raise awareness regarding the importance of prevention and readiness by creating and maintaining an infrastructure for an American-made mask supply. For years, Prestige Ameritech and SMSA sounded the alarm about the vulnerability of American medical supply chains.

In response to the growing coronavirus outbreak, Prestige Ameritech has ramped up their daily production to 600,000 masks. Their work provides protection for millions worldwide, from healthcare workers to American citizens abroad. Due to increased demand, they have prioritized supplying hospitals and medical installations with personal protective equipment. The disruption of American medical supply chains has catapulted Prestige Ameritech into the spotlight, highlighting the vital importance of their work. They have been profiled in national news outlets including the New York Times, Washington Post, Wired, and CNN. Through this surge in interest, Prestige Ameritech has remained committed to their mission, driving home the need for a resurgence of domestic industrial medial suppliers.

Recognizing their foresight, knowledge, and courage, I am proud to congratulate Dan, Mike, and the entire Prestige Ameritech team for being named as the Senate Small Business of the Week. I look forward to watching your continued growth, advocacy, and leadership in this critical segment of our industrial sector.●

REMEMBERING WILLIAM FULGINITI

• Mr. UDALL, Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great New Mexican, William Fulginiti, who for 43 years led the New Mexico Municipal League. Sadly, Bill passed away February 25, 2020, at the age of 78, surrounded by family and those he loved.

Bill held the position of executive director of the State municipal league for over four decades because, for all those years, he led the organization with skill, energy, commitment, and vision. The New Mexico Municipal League is 106 incorporated municipalities and 14 other organizations strong because of Bill's work over the years growing the organization. The league functions as one of the most effective voices for New Mexico communities in our State. Over two-thirds of New Mexico's population resides in incorporated municipalities. While Bill's responsibility for promoting those communities was great, he gladly took on the challenge and achieved enormous success over the years.

Bill was a staple in New Mexico politics, a staple at the State legislature. His work was, in large part, responsible for giving the municipal league the strong voice it now has. Bill knew the facts. He knew the programs. He knew the laws. He knew the people. He understood the complexities of how cities work and brought his deft negotiating skills to the table to further the interests of communities around the State. He was, according to Roundhouse veterans, "a force to be reckoned with."

Bill helped launch the New Mexico Self Insurers Fund and the National League of Cities Mutual Insurance Fund, and he initiated the first bond pool for New Mexico cities so they could access national bond markets and save money on interest rates.

Bill's reach was wide. At various times, he served on the board of directors of the National League of Cities. He testified before Congress on the infrastructure needs of cities. At the time of his passing, he served as vice chair of the New Mexico Finance Authority, a legislatively created agency that helps finance important infrastructure projects for cities, counties, and State agencies. And he was serving as a member on the State water trust board, a board that funds water projects critical to our arid State.

Over the years, Bill's work earned him the Governor's Distinguished Public Service Award and the New Mexico Distinguished Public Administration Award, among other awards.

Bill's many decades of public service also included serving our Nation for 8 years in the U.S. Air Force. Bill earned his master's degree in public administration from Pennsylvania State University.

Bill served our State with integrity, honesty, and a sense of humor, and he helped mentor the next generation of public servants.

Bill's influence in our State was far and wide. His work will continue to have a positive impact in the years to come. We will miss you, Bill, but we will not forget you.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Ms. Roberts, 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.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4351. An act to require certain grantees under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to submit a plan to track discriminatory land use policies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5003. An act to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to provide enhanced protection against debt collector harassment of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5931. An act to require a review of the effects of FHA mortgage insurance policies, practices, and products on small-dollar mortgage lending, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5932. An act to ensure greater transparency regarding the terms and conditions of financing provided by the People's Republic of China to member states of the international financial institutions.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:27 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4998. An act to prohibit certain Federal subsidies from being used to purchase communications equipment or services posing national security risks, to provide for the establishment of a reimbursement program for the replacement of communications equipment or services posing such risks, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 4351. An act to require certain grantees under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to submit a plan to track discriminatory land use policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5003. An act to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to provide enhanced protection against debt collector harassment of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5931. An act to require a review of the effects of FHA mortgage insurance policies, practices, and products on small-dollar

mortgage lending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 5932. An act to ensure greater transparency about the terms and conditions of financing provided by the People's Republic of China to member states of the international financial institutions; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4144. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Veterinary Accreditation Program" ((RIN0579-AE40) (Docket No. APHIS-2017-0065)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4145. A communication from the Director of Congressional Relations, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of the Comptroller's 2019 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4146. A communication from the Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Volunteer Survey: Fiscal Year 2019"; to the Committees on Appropriations; and Foreign Relations.

EC-4147. A communication from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to the Defense Articles and Services authorized and furnished to foreign countries and international organizations under FMS, Chapter 2, Arms Export Control Act (OSS-2020-0202); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4148. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions Lists of 9mm semi-automatic pistols to Mexico in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 19-076); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4149. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2020-0022 - 2020-0037); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4150. A communication from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2019 Military Assistance Report"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4151. A communication from the Executive Secretary, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Joint Employer Status Under the National Labor Relations Act" (RIN3142-AA13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 26, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4152. A communication from the Director of the Peace Corps, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's