

by “foreign forces”, and threatening protesters in Hong Kong;

(5) officials of the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Communist Party of China continue to abuse criminal law and police power to punish critics and “maintain stability” with the goal of perpetuating one-party rule, often targeting human rights advocates, religious believers, and ethnic minority groups; and

(6) the Government of the People’s Republic of China is likely committing crimes against humanity;

Whereas, before the 2008 Summer Olympics were held in Beijing, the Department of State Country Report on Human Rights Practices for 2006 reported that the Government of the People’s Republic of China practiced severe cultural and religious repression of minorities, especially of Uyghur individuals in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, and according to the Department of State Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2018, such repression has intensified since the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing;

Whereas four Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations have urged the governing authorities in Hong Kong and the People’s Republic of China to ensure protestors in Hong Kong may fully exercise the right to peacefully assemble, including—

(1) the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression;

(2) the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders;

(3) the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; and

(4) the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

Whereas police in Hong Kong have arrested more than 6,000 individuals and fired more than 16,000 rounds of tear gas during the seven months of protests by people of Hong Kong seeking to uphold their liberties and the autonomy of Hong Kong, as articulated in the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China (referred to in this preamble as the “Basic Law”);

Whereas the report of the Network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders entitled “Defending Rights in a ‘No Rights Zone’: Annual Report on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in China (2018)” indicates that—

(1) authorities in the People’s Republic of China continue to charge Tibetans with “inciting separatism” for expressing political or religious dissent and impose heavy prison sentences on such individuals;

(2) the Government of the People’s Republic of China continues to implement its draconian 2017 cybersecurity law, which authorizes invasive cyber surveillance and provides broad authority to restrict and penalize online expression;

(3) the Government of the People’s Republic of China intends to have “full coverage, connectivity, and control” of the entire People’s Republic of China by police video surveillance by 2020; and

(4) the Government of the People’s Republic of China boldly retaliates against human rights advocates for their work upholding international standards and cooperating with the United Nations human rights mechanisms;

Whereas, in January 2020, the editorial board of *The Washington Post* questioned whether the People’s Republic of China should “be allowed to host the 2022 Winter Olympics in one city while running concentration camps in another”; and

Whereas the flagrant human rights abuses committed by the Government of the Peo-

ple’s Republic of China are inconsistent with Olympic values: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate supports the values of Olympism and the principles of Team USA with respect to the protection of—

(A) the rights, safety, and well-being of athletes; and

(B) the integrity of sport; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that, consistent with the principles of the International Olympic Committee, unless the Government of the People’s Republic of China demonstrates significant progress in securing fundamental human rights, including the freedoms of religion, speech, movement, association, and assembly, by January 1, 2021, the International Olympic Committee should rebid the 2022 Winter Olympics to be hosted by a country that recognizes and respects human rights.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1345. Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KING, and Ms. SINEMA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1346. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1347. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1348. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1349. Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1350. Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JONES, Mr. MORAN, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1351. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1352. Ms. MCSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1353. Ms. MCSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1354. Ms. MCSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1355. Ms. MCSALLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1356. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1357. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1358. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her

to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1359. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1360. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1361. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1362. Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1363. Mr. UDALL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1364. Mr. UDALL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1365. Mr. UDALL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1366. Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1367. Mrs. LOEFFLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1368. Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1369. Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1370. Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1371. Mr. DURBIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1372. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1373. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1374. Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1375. Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. MARKEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1376. Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1377. Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1378. Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended

amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1436. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1437. Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1438. Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1439. Mr. SCOTT, of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1440. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1441. Mr. ENZI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1442. Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1443. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1444. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1445. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1446. Mr. CARPER (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1447. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1448. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1449. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the

bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1450. Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. JONES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1451. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1452. Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1453. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1454. Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1455. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1456. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1457. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1458. Mr. TOOMEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1459. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1869, to require the disclosure of ownership of high-security space leased to accommodate a Federal agency, and for other purposes.

SA 1460. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. BARRASSO, and Ms. WARREN)) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 497, commemorating the life of Dr. Li Wenliang and calling for transparency and cooperation from the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China.

SA 1461. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. JONES, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. SMITH, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. REED, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mrs. SHAHEEN)) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 4334, to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2020 through 2024, and for other purposes.

SA 1462. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1463. Mr. CRAMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1464. Mr. CRAMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1465. Mr. CRAMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1466. Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1467. Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. PETERS, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1468. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1469. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1470. Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1471. Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1472. Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1473. Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. CRUZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1474. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1475. Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1476. Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1477. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the

bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1478. Mr. LANKFORD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1479. Mr. ROMNEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1407 submitted by Ms. MURKOWSKI and intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2657, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1345. Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KING, and Ms. SINEMA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE IV—AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986

SEC. 4001. GREEN ENERGY PUBLICLY TRADED PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7704(d)(1)(E) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “income and gains derived from the exploration” and inserting “income and gains derived from—

“(i) the exploration”,

(2) by inserting “or” before “industrial source”,

(3) by striking “, or the transportation or storage” and all that follows and inserting the following:

“(ii) the generation of electric power or thermal energy exclusively using any qualified energy resource (as defined in section 45(c)(1)),

“(iii) the operation of energy property (as defined in section 48(a)(3), determined without regard to any date by which the construction of the facility is required to begin),

“(iv) in the case of a facility described in paragraph (3) or (7) of section 45(d) (determined without regard to any placed in service date or date by which construction of the facility is required to begin), the accepting or processing of open-loop biomass or municipal solid waste,

“(v) the storage of electric power or thermal energy exclusively using energy property that is energy storage property (as defined in section 48(c)(5)),

“(vi) the generation, storage, or distribution of electric power or thermal energy exclusively using energy property that is combined heat and power system property (as defined in section 48(c)(3), determined without regard to subparagraph (B)(iii) thereof and without regard to any date by which the construction of the facility is required to begin),

“(vii) the transportation or storage of any fuel described in subsection (b), (c), (d), or (e) of section 6426,

“(viii) the conversion of renewable biomass (as defined in subparagraph (I) of section 211(o)(1) of the Clean Air Act (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this clause)) into renewable fuel (as defined in subparagraph (J) of such section as so in effect), or the storage or transportation of such fuel,

“(ix) the production, storage, or transportation of any fuel which—

“(I) uses as its primary feedstock carbon oxides captured from an anthropogenic source or the atmosphere,

“(II) does not use as its primary feedstock carbon oxide which is deliberately released from naturally occurring subsurface springs, and

“(III) is determined by the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to achieve a reduction of not less than a 60 percent in lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions (as defined in section 211(o)(1)(H) of the Clean Air Act, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this clause) compared to baseline lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions (as defined in section 211(o)(1)(C) of such Act, as so in effect),

“(x) the generation of electric power from, a qualifying gasification project (as defined in section 48B(c)(1) without regard to subparagraph (C)) that is described in section 48(d)(1)(B), or

“(xi) in the case of a qualified facility (as defined in section 45Q(d), without regard to any date by which construction of the facility is required to begin) not less than 50 percent (30 percent in the case of a facility placed in service before January 1, 2020) of the total carbon oxide production of which is qualified carbon oxide (as defined in section 45Q(c))—

“(I) the generation, availability for such generation, or storage of electric power at such facility, or

“(II) the capture of carbon dioxide by such facility.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2019.

SA 1346. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2657, to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 4001. RATES AND CHARGES FOR NATURAL GAS.

(a) HEARING ON CHANGED RATES OR CHARGES.—Section 4(e) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717c(e)) is amended by striking the third and fourth sentences and inserting the following: “Where changes in rates or charges are thus made effective, the Commission may, by order, require the natural-gas company to furnish a bond, to be approved by the Commission, to refund any amounts ordered by the Commission, to keep accurate accounts in detail of all amounts received by reason of those changes, specifying by whom and in whose behalf those amounts were paid, and, on completion of the hearing and decision, to order the natural-gas company to refund, with interest, the portion of those rates or charges by its decision found not justified. At any hearing involving a rate or charge sought to be changed, the burden of proof to show that the changed rate or charge is just and reasonable shall be on the natural-gas company, and the Commission shall give to the hearing and decision of such questions preference over other questions pending before the Commission and decide the same as speedily as possible.”.

(b) REFUNDS.—Section 5 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717d) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (d); and

(2) inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) REFUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At the conclusion of any hearing under this section in which refunds

of amounts that have been paid are required, the Commission shall order the natural-gas company to make those refunds for the period beginning on the refund effective date established under paragraph (3) and ending on the date on which the new rate established by the Commission under subsection (a) takes effect in amounts in excess of those amounts that would have been paid under the just and reasonable rate, charge, classification, rule, regulation, practice, or contract that the Commission orders to be observed and in force.

“(2) REQUIREMENT.—The refunds required under paragraph (1) shall be made, with interest, to the persons who have paid the rates or charges that are the subject of the hearing.

“(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall establish the refund effective date in accordance with this paragraph.

“(B) HEARINGS INITIATED ON COMPLAINT.—In the case of a hearing initiated on a complaint, the refund effective date shall be—

“(i) not earlier than the date on which the complaint was filed; and

“(ii) not later than 150 days after that date.

“(C) HEARING INITIATED ON MOTION OF COMMISSION.—In the case of a hearing initiated by the Commission on its own motion, the refund effective date shall be—

“(i) not earlier than the date on which the Commission publishes notice of the intent to initiate the hearing; and

“(ii) not later than 150 days after that date.

“(c) NO FINAL DECISION.—If the Commission has not rendered a final decision for a hearing under this section by the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date on which the hearing is initiated, the Commission shall state—

“(1) the reasons why the Commission has failed to render a decision; and

“(2) the best estimate of the Commission as to when the Commission reasonably expects to render the decision.”.

(c) EFFECT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to any proceeding under the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717 et seq.) commenced before the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) REFILING WITHOUT PREJUDICE.—A proceeding under the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717 et seq.) commenced before the date of enactment of this Act may be withdrawn and refiled without prejudice.

(d) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not earlier than 3 years and not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall conduct a study on the effect of the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The study under paragraph (1) shall include an analysis of—

(A) the impact, if any, of the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) on the cost of capital paid by natural-gas companies (as defined in section 2 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717a));

(B) any change in the average time taken to resolve proceedings under sections 4 and 5 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717c, 717d); and

(C) such other matters as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission may determine to be appropriate and in the public interest.

(3) REPORT.—On completion of the study under paragraph (1), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy