

Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Flood Elevation Determinations" (72 FR 28613) received on June 11, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2245. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (72 FR 27752) received on June 11, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2246. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (72 FR 27741) received on June 11, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2247. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Flood Elevation Determinations" (72 FR 28617) received on June 11, 2007; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2248. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Economic Exclusive Zone Off Alaska; Deep-Water Species Fishery by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska" (RIN0648-XA40) received on June 11, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2249. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Less than 60 Feet LOA Using Pot or Hook-and-Line Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area" (RIN0648-XA25) received on June 11, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2250. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulatory Amendment to Modify Record-keeping and Reporting and Observer Requirements; Hagfish Collection of Information" (RIN0648-AU80) received on June 11, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2251. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Temporary Rule to Prohibit New Entry to the Pacific Whiting Fishery in 2007" (RIN0648-AV57) received on June 11, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2252. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Maryland Regulatory Program" (MD-055-FOR) received on June 12, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2253. A communication from the Attorney, Office of General Counsel for Legislation and Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedural Rules for DOE Nuclear Activities and Occupational Radiation Protection" (RIN1901-AA95) received on June 12, 2007; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2254. A communication from the Associate Deputy Secretary of the Interior, transmitting, the report of a draft bill that would amend the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2255. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; Exemption from VOC Requirements for Sources Subject to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Boat Manufacturing or Reinforced Plastics Composites Manufacturing" (FRL No. 8319-8) received on June 12, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2256. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Indiana; NSR Reform Regulations" (FRL No. 8327-1) received on June 12, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2257. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Revisions to the Nevada State Implementation Plan; Request for Rescission" (FRL No. 8325-8) received on June 12, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2258. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Stratospheric Ozone: Allocation of Essential Use Allowances for Calendar Year 2007" (FRL No. 8325-5) received on June 12, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2259. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Nevada State Implementation Plan, Washoe County District Health Department" (FRL No. 8327-3) received on June 12, 2007; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2260. A communication from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's latest quarterly report on the status of its licensing and regulatory duties; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-2261. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safe Harbor for Valuation Under Section 475" ((RIN1545-BB90) (TD 9328)) received on June 12, 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2262. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the certification of a proposed technical assistance agreement for the export of technical data, defense services and defense articles to support the sale of four C-17A aircraft to Canada; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2263. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a Determination exe-

cuted by the Deputy Secretary relating to actions of Iraq and Libya; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2264. A communication from the Human Resources Specialist, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer, received on June 11, 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2265. A communication from the White House Liaison, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, received on June 11, 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2266. A communication from the White House Liaison, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the designation of an acting officer for the position of Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education, received on June 11, 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2267. A communication from the White House Liaison, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Surgeon General, received on June 11, 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2268. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Office of the Deputy Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Deputy Secretary of Labor, received on June 11, 2007; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2269. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, the report of a legislative proposal entitled the "Senior Professional Performance Act of 2007"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2270. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Board's Inspector General for the period ending March 31, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2271. A communication from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, Office of the Chief Acquisition Officer, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation" (FAC 2005-17) received on June 11, 2007; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2272. A communication from the Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the appointment of members to the Virginia Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2273. A communication from the Staff Director, United States Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the appointment of members to the Michigan Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-116. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Montana expressing its opposition to the Rockies Prosperity

Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 31

Whereas, bills with the same content have been introduced in the Congress for the past three sessions, named successively the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act of 2001, the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act of 2003, and the Rockies Prosperity Act of 2005; and

Whereas, these acts would designate more than 15.4 million acres as new wilderness, more than 1.4 million acres as park preserves, more than 1 million acres as recovery areas, and an additional 8.51 million acres as biological connecting corridors; and

Whereas, the proposed wilderness, preserves, and recovery areas would impose severe restrictions on access and human activities in violation of existing laws such as the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act; and

Whereas, severe restrictions on the management of the private property within the corridors would lead to prohibition of even-aged silvicultural management, prohibition of timber harvesting, prohibition of mineral, oil, and gas exploration, prohibition of road construction or reconstruction with the goal of achieving zero miles of road in the corridors over a short time period, causing loss of value to private property even to the point of forcing landowners to abandon their properties, hopes and dreams and causing extreme hardship and anguish; and

Whereas, additional taking of private property would occur with the reduction of water rights on National Forest land and the reduction of grazing rights on National Forest land, causing hardship and loss of business to ranchers, farmers, and residents in the region; and

Whereas, the requirements for implementation of the management plans set forth in the acts are extremely unbalanced in their approach to conservation, focus entirely on plant, animal, and ecological effects and leave out the social, economic, and cultural impacts on people who also are part of the natural environment, and are in violation of existing law, such as the National Environmental Policy Act; and

Whereas, the Montana Legislature does not believe these acts, drafted by extreme special interest groups funded by international foundations and other sources that do not represent the majority of Montana residents, should be allowed to subject land in Montana to this sort of unbalanced, unnecessary control; and

Whereas, the placing of environmental or other restrictions upon the use of private lands has been held by a number of recent United States Supreme Court decisions to constitute a taking of the land for public purposes; and

Whereas, these acts do not include proposals to purchase the private lands; and

Whereas, the restrictions contemplated constitute an unlawful taking of that land in violation of Article I, section 8, clause 17, of the Constitution of the United States, which provides that before any state land can be purchased, the consent of the state Legislature and not the state Executive Branch must be obtained; and

Whereas, Article IV, section 3, clause 2, of the Constitution of the United States provides that "nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state"; and

Whereas, Article IV, section 4, of the Constitution of the United States provides that "the United States shall guarantee to every state in this union a republican form of government"; and

Whereas, Amendment V of the Constitution of the United States provides that no

person shall "be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation". Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana: That the Montana Legislature is opposed to the passage of these acts. Be it further

Resolved, That the Montana Legislature urge the members of Congress, especially the Montana delegation, to vigorously oppose these acts and any revisions of these acts and to vote against these acts at every opportunity. Be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State of the United States, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, and Montana's Congressional Delegation.

POM-117. A joint resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Nevada urging Congress to support a proposed off-highway vehicle park in Clark County; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 18

Whereas, the Nellis Dunes area comprises approximately 10,181 acres located in unincorporated Clark County, Nevada, on federal public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, 8,921 acres of which are usable recreation space, offering a variety of terrain and trails for off-highway vehicle enthusiasts; and

Whereas, most areas of Clark County have been closed to motorized recreation; and

Whereas, the Nellis Dunes is recognized in the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition's open space plan to protect the natural backdrops and maintain a perimeter trail corridor around the Las Vegas Valley; and

Whereas, the Bureau of Land Management's Las Vegas Resource Management Plan designates the Nellis Dunes as an "open area," allowing unrestricted motorized recreation; and

Whereas, an opportunity exists for Clark County to develop and manage a motorized recreation system, consistent with the mission of Nellis Air Force Base, with the potential to prevent safety concerns, improve air quality, protect rare plants and sensitive soils, prevent refuse dumping and capitalize on potential economic development possibilities; and

Whereas, a feasibility study, funded by the Board of County Commissioners for Clark County, evaluated supply and demand considerations, capital and operations and maintenance costs and options for funding, and likely operation models for a motorized recreation park; and

Whereas, development of a motorized recreation park managed by Clark County will benefit southern Nevadans through the promotion of safe off-road activities and implementation of environmental protections to air, sensitive soils and native plants: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of Nevada, Jointly, That the members of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress to promulgate legislation for the conveyance of the Nellis Dunes area to Clark County for the purpose of off-road recreation and environmental protection; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Board of County Commissioners of Clark County and each member

of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM-118. A joint resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Nevada encouraging the use of biomass in the production of energy in Nevada and encouraging certain activities relating to that production; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

Whereas, "Biomass" is the term used to describe organic matter that is available on a renewable basis, including, but not limited to, agricultural crops and agricultural wastes, wood and wood residues, animal wastes, municipal wastes and various aquatic plants; and

Whereas, unlike petroleum, biomass is a resource that is renewable and is generally readily available at the location where it is used to produce renewable energy, thereby reducing the costs of distributing the biomass; and

Whereas, although the production and use of renewable energy is encouraged in Nevada, and biomass is included in the incentives provided for the production and use of renewable energy, the availability and benefits of using biomass itself should be accentuated and brought to the attention of the members of the general public: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of Nevada, Jointly, That the Nevada Legislature hereby urges Congress to make biomass eligible for production tax credits at the same level and in the same manner as wind and geothermal energy: and be it further

Resolved, That this Legislature encourages the use of biomass in the production of energy in Nevada and therefore urges all Nevadans to consider investing money in the production of energy from biomass and to participate in the establishment throughout the State of Nevada of projects that demonstrate the effectiveness and desirability of using locally obtained biomass in the production of energy and partnerships between private enterprises and federal, state and local governmental entities to create those projects: and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the Chief of the United States Forest Service, the Governor of the State of Nevada, the Director of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation: and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM-119. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Florida urging Congress to, among other things, fully authorize the conditionally approved projects in section 601 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE MEMORIAL 2770

Whereas, the Everglades is one of the most unique and fragile ecosystems in the world, and

Whereas, the Legislature and the Congress of the United States have long recognized that the Everglades is imperiled and must be restored, and

Whereas, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan was approved by Congress

as a framework for restoration of the Everglades in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, and

Whereas, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan will restore more than 2.4 million acres of the south Florida ecosystem while meeting the other water-related needs of the region, and

Whereas, the Legislature and the governing board of the South Florida Water Management District have appropriated more than \$2 billion to implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan since the passage of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, and

Whereas, the Legislature and the governing board of the South Florida Water Management District have provided more than 90 percent of the funding to implement the plan, and the South Florida Water Management District has begun construction on the initial conditionally authorized projects, and

Whereas, the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 approved the restoration plan as a full and equal partnership between the State Government and the Federal Government, and

Whereas, the Indian River Lagoon and Picayune Strand projects and 10 conditionally authorized projects require authorization from Congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida, That the Congress of the United States is requested to fully authorize the conditionally approved projects in section 601 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 and the Indian River Lagoon and Picayune Strand projects in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and to provide funding for the federal share of the full and equal partnership; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-120. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Florida urging Congress to authorize improvements to bring the Herbert Hoover Dike into compliance with current levee protection safety standards and to authorize funding to expedite the improvements; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE MEMORIAL 1680

Whereas, Lake Okeechobee was impacted by four hurricanes during the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons, and

Whereas, subsequently, at the request of local community leaders, the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board implemented an independent report on the Herbert Hoover Dike surrounding Lake Okeechobee, and

Whereas, the report found that the dike does not meet current levee protection safety standards, which constitutes a failure of the structure, and

Whereas, the failure of the structure poses a clear and imminent threat of catastrophic proportion to the communities surrounding Lake Okeechobee, and

Whereas, the dike was not built to current levee engineering standards and is therefore not authorized by Congress to be brought into compliance to such standards: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Legislature of the State of Florida, That the Congress of the United States is requested to authorize improvements to bring the Herbert Hoover Dike into compliance with current levee protection safety standards by 2014 and to authorize

funding to expedite the improvements; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-121. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada urging Congress to reevaluate the "fast track" approval of international trade agreements; to the Committee on Finance.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

Whereas, as international trade has evolved in recent years under the "fast track" authority by which Congress reviews international trade agreements involving the United States, the authority for which will expire on June 30, 2007, significant questions have developed with respect to the continuing ability of states to retain their character, environmental controls and quality of life; and

Whereas, under "fast track" rules, the review of complex trade agreements by Congress is limited to a vote to approve or reject the agreements, after limited time for consideration, without the possibility of amendments; and

Whereas, trade agreements today have an impact which extends significantly beyond the bounds of traditional trade matters such as tariffs and quotas, and instead grant foreign investors and service providers certain rights and privileges regarding acquisition of land and facilities and regarding operations within a state's territory, subject state laws to challenge as "non-tariff barriers to trade" in the binding dispute resolution bodies that accompany the pacts and place limits on the future policy options of state legislatures; and

Whereas, despite the demonstrated variety of significant impacts that trade and investment agreements have on state governance, taxation authority, environmental protection, land use regulation and many other areas of state interest, states and local governments have not received assurances that their concerns will be adequately addressed in any "fast track" renewal process; and

Whereas, Federal legislation should clarify the negotiating agenda of the United States in a manner that establishes a stronger role for states and should include an explicit mechanism for the prior informed consent of affected state legislatures: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of Nevada, Jointly, That the Nevada Legislature hereby urges Congress to reevaluate the "fast track" approval of international trade agreements, and to consider replacing that authority with a more democratic, inclusive and deliberative mechanism which takes into consideration the concerns of state legislatures and authorizes their participation in the international trade agreement process; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM-122. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada urging Congress to enact the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2007; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

Whereas, the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2007 was recently introduced in Congress as a tool to help states whose physician to population ratios are below that of the national median; and

Whereas, the intent of this legislation is to increase the number of residency positions for which Medicare payments will be made to teaching hospitals in states with a shortage of resident physicians; and

Whereas, increasing the number of resident physicians in states is an important step towards ensuring an adequate supply of physicians in the health care system; and

Whereas, as a result of this legislation, teaching hospitals in approximately 24 states would be eligible for an increase in their resident cap, including Nevada which currently has 199 physicians in training and is estimated to be eligible for an additional 93 positions; and

Whereas, as one of the fastest growing states in the nation, and with a ranking of 43rd in the nation in physicians per 100,000 residents, it is critical to the residents of Nevada that the shortage of physicians be remedied; and

Whereas, it is the belief of the Nevada Legislature that the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act is an important first step that will help meet Nevada's and the nation's need for future physician services: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of Nevada, jointly, That the members of the Nevada Legislature hereby express their support for passage of the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2007: and be it further

Resolved, That the Nevada Legislature will continue to do all things possible to make Nevada a desirable location for the physicians who choose to practice here; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Secretary of Health and Human Services and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM-123. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada urging Congress to support a free trade agreement between the Republic of China on Taiwan and the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

Whereas, it is our belief that it is this country's responsibility to promote the values of freedom and democracy, a commitment to open markets and the free exchange of goods and ideas both at home and abroad, and the Republic of China on Taiwan shares these values and has struggled throughout the past 50 years to create what is an open and thriving democracy; and

Whereas, despite the fact that Taiwan is a member of the World Trade Organization, it has no formal trade agreement with the United States, yet Taiwan has emerged as the United States' eighth largest trading partner, the United States is Taiwan's largest trading partner and American businesses have benefited greatly from this dynamic trade relationship; and

Whereas, Taiwan has emerged over the past two decades as one of the United States' most important allies in Asia and throughout the world; and

Whereas, Taiwan has forged an open, market-based economy and a thriving democracy based on free elections and the freedom

of dissent, and it is in the interest of the United States to encourage the development of both these institutions; and

Whereas, the United States has an obligation to its allies and to its own citizens to encourage economic growth, market opening and the destruction of trade barriers as a means of raising living standards across the board; and

Whereas, a free trade agreement with Taiwan would be a positive step toward accomplishing all of these goals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate and Assembly of the State of Nevada, Jointly, That the members of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge President George W. Bush and Congress to support a free trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan: and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the United States Secretary of State, the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco, the Executive Director of the Las Vegas Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce and the members of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM-124. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Florida urging Congress to timely authorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program to assure federal funding for the Florida Kidcare program; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE MEMORIAL 1506

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of Florida regards the health of children to be of paramount importance to families in the state, and

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of Florida regards poor child health as a threat to the educational achievement and social and psychological well-being of the children of the State of Florida, and

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of Florida considers protecting the health of children to be essential to the well-being of Florida's youngest citizens and the quality of life in the state, and

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of Florida considers the Florida Kidcare program, which was created in 1998 and currently has 1,388,520 children enrolled in the program, to be an integral part of the arrangements for health benefits for the children of the State of Florida, and

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of Florida recognizes the value of the Florida Kidcare program in preserving child wellness, preventing and treating childhood disease, improving health outcomes, and reducing overall health costs, and

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of Florida considers the federal funding available for the Florida Kidcare program to be indispensable to providing health benefits for children of modest means, Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Legislature of the State of Florida: That the Legislature urges the members of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress to ensure that the Congress reauthorizes the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to continue to provide federal funding for the Florida Kidcare program: Be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the Governor to work with the Florida delegation to ensure that SCHIP is reauthorized in a timely manner. Be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges the Governor to provide the assistance necessary to identify and enroll children who qualify for Medicaid or the Florida Kidcare program. Be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature proclaims that all components of state government should work together with educators, health care providers, social workers, and parents to ensure that all available public and private assistance for providing health benefits to uninsured children in this state be used to the maximum extent possible. Be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-125. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada urging Congress to continue to support the participation of the Republic of China on Taiwan in the World Health Organization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15

Whereas, in the first chapter of its charter, the World Health Organization set forth the objective of attaining the highest possible level of health for all people, and participation in international health programs is crucial as the potential for the spread of infectious diseases increases proportionately with increases in world trade, travel and population; and

Whereas, Taiwan's population of over 23 million is larger than three-fourths of the member countries who currently participate in the World Health Organization; and

Whereas, the achievements of Taiwan in the field of health are substantial and include one of the highest life expectancy levels in Asia, maternal and infant mortality rates comparable to those of western countries, the eradication of such infectious diseases as cholera, smallpox and the plague, and the distinction of being the first country in the world to provide children with free hepatitis B vaccinations; and

Whereas, before its loss of membership in the World Health Organization in 1972, Taiwan sent specialists to serve in other member countries on countless health projects and its health experts held key positions in the organization, all to the benefit of the entire Pacific region; and

Whereas, presently, this remarkable country is not allowed to participate in any forums or workshops organized by the World Health Organization concerning the latest technologies in the diagnosis, monitoring and control of disease; and

Whereas, in recent years, the government and the expert scientists and doctors of Taiwan have expressed a willingness to assist financially and technically in international aid and health activities supported by the World Health Organization, but these offers have been refused; and

Whereas, admittance of Taiwan to the World Health Organization would bring tremendous benefits to all persons in this world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate and Assembly of the State of Nevada, Jointly, That the members of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge President George W. Bush and the Congress of the United States to continue to support all efforts made by the Republic of China on Taiwan to gain meaningful participation in the World Health Organization; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the

Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco, the Executive Director of the Las Vegas Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce and the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

POM-126. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Florida urging Congress to engage the international community to take action in the effort to bring a just and lasting peace to the people of Darfur; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE MEMORIAL 1698

Whereas, United Nations officials have described the ongoing crisis in Darfur as "the world's worst humanitarian crisis," and

Whereas, hundreds of thousands of people have died and more than 2.5 million have been displaced in Darfur since 2003, and

Whereas, the Government of Sudan has failed in its responsibility to protect the many peoples of Darfur, and

Whereas, the United States Congress declared on July 22, 2004, that the atrocities in Darfur constituted genocide, and

Whereas, on September 9, 2004, Secretary of State Colin Powell and President George W. Bush described the crisis in Darfur as genocide, and

Whereas, on June 30, 2005, President Bush confirmed that "the violence in the Darfur region is clearly genocide and the human cost is beyond calculation," and

Whereas, on May 8, 2006, President Bush stated, "we will call genocide by its rightful name, and we will stand up for the innocent until the peace of Darfur is secured," and

Whereas, on May 5, 2006, the Government of Sudan and the largest rebel faction in Darfur, the Sudan Liberation Movement, led by Minni Minnawi, signed the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), and

Whereas, violence in Darfur escalated in the months following the signing of the DPA, with increased attacks against civilians and humanitarian workers, and

Whereas, violence has spread to the neighboring states of Chad and the Central African Republic, threatening regional peace and security, and

Whereas, in July 2006, more humanitarian aid workers were killed than in the previous 3 years combined, and

Whereas, violence has forced some humanitarian organizations to suspend operations, leaving 40 percent of the population of Darfur inaccessible to aid workers, and

Whereas, on August 30, 2006, the United Nations Security Council passed Security Council Resolution 1706 (2006), asserting that the existing United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) "shall take over from the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) responsibility for supporting the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) upon the expiration of AMIS's mandate but in any event no later than 31 December 2006," and that UNMIS "shall be strengthened by up to 17,300 military personnel . . . up to 3,300 civilian police personnel and up to 16 Formed Police Units," which "shall begin to be deployed no later than 1 October 2006," and

Whereas, on September 19, 2006, President Bush announced the appointment of Andrew Nastios as Presidential Special Envoy to lead United States efforts to bring peace to the Darfur region in Sudan, and

Whereas, on November 16, 2006, high-level consultations led by Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, and Alpha Oumar Konare, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, and including representatives of the Arab League, the European

Union, the Government of Sudan, and other national governments, produced the "Addis Ababa Agreement," and

Whereas, the Agreement stated that the DPA must be made more inclusive, and "called upon all parties—Government and DPA nonsignatories—to immediately commit to a cessation of hostilities in Darfur in order to give the peace process the best chances for success," and

Whereas, the Agreement included a plan to establish a United Nations–African Union peacekeeping operation that would consist of no fewer than 17,000 military troops and 3,000 civilian police, and would have a primarily African character, and

Whereas, the Agreement stated that the peacekeeping operation must be logistically and financially sustainable, with support coming from the United Nations, and

Whereas, it is imperative that a peacekeeping force in Darfur have sufficient strength and the mandate to provide adequate security to the people of Darfur, and

Whereas, on January 10, 2007, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson met with Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir; their meeting resulted in the issuance of a Joint Statement calling for "a 60-day cessation of hostilities by all parties within the framework of the Darfur Peace Agreement," and

Whereas, the Joint Statement called for the initiation of African Union/United Nations diplomatic efforts within the framework of the DPA, and for two projected meetings—a Government of Sudan-sponsored field commanders' conference to be attended by representatives of the African Union and the United Nations, and a subsequent African Union/United Nations sponsored peace summit, again within the framework of the DPA, to be held no later than March 15, 2007, and

Whereas, the Joint Statement stated the need to disarm all armed groups, including the Janjaweed, pursuant to the provision of the DPA: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida, That the Florida Legislature:

(1) Supports, given the rapidly deteriorating situation on the ground in Darfur, the principles of the Addis Ababa Agreement of November 17, 2006, in order to increase security and stability for the people of Darfur.

(2) Declares that the deployment of an African Union–United Nations peacekeeping force under the command and control of the United Nations, as laid out in the Addis Ababa Agreement, is the minimum acceptable effort on the part of the international community to protect the people of Darfur.

(3) Supports the strengthening of the African Union peacekeeping mission in Sudan so that it may improve its performance with regard to civilian protection as the African Union peacekeeping mission begins to transfer responsibility for protecting the people of Darfur to the United Nations–African Union peacekeeping force under the command and control of the United Nations, as laid out in the Addis Ababa Agreement.

(4) Calls upon the Government of Sudan to immediately:

(a) Allow the implementation of the United Nations light and heavy support packages as provided for in the Addis Ababa Agreement; and

(b) Work with the United Nations and the international community to deploy United Nations peacekeepers to Darfur in keeping with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1706 passed on August 31, 2006.

(5) Calls upon all parties to the conflict to immediately:

(a) Adhere to the Joint Statement issued by Governor Bill Richardson and President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir on January 10, 2007;

(b) Observe the cease-fire contained therein; and

(c) Respect the impartiality and neutrality of humanitarian agencies so that relief workers can have unfettered access to their beneficiary populations and deliver desperately needed assistance.

(6) Urges the President to:

(a) Continue work with other members of the international community, including the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the African Union, the European Union, the Arab League, Sudan's trading partners, and the Government of Sudan to facilitate the implementation of the Addis Ababa Agreement and the subsequent Richardson-Bashir Joint Statement;

(b) Ensure the ability of any peacekeeping force deployed to Darfur to carry out its mandate by providing adequate funding and by working with our international partners to provide technical assistance, logistical support and intelligence-gathering capabilities, and military assets;

(c) Vigorously pursue, in cooperation with other members of the international community, strong punitive action against those persons responsible for crimes against humanity as previously authorized in the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-344), United Nations Security Council Resolution 1591 (2005), and the Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-497, 118 Stat. 4012); and

(d) Make all necessary efforts to address the widespread incidents of gender-based violence in Darfur, including working with the Government of Sudan to help institute a zero-tolerance policy for gender-based violence as agreed to in the Richardson-Bashir Joint Statement.

(7) Calls upon the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and the Florida delegation to the United States Congress to:

(a) Provide all necessary funding and support for United Nations and African Union peacekeeping operations in Darfur;

(b) Provide all necessary funding and support for humanitarian aid in Darfur and affected areas of Chad and the Central African Republic;

(c) Conduct sufficient oversight of actions by the United States administration to ensure that no opportunities for furthering the peace are missed; and

(d) Continue to monitor the conflict and political processes and, if necessary, examine imposing additional punitive sanctions against the Government of Sudan, officials within the Government of Sudan, rebel leaders, and any other individual or group obstructing the ongoing peace process or in violation of agreed-upon cease-fires and the Darfur Peace Agreement; and be it further

Resolved, That the Florida Legislature urges Congress to do all in its power to further the goals expressed in this memorial in order to bring lasting peace to the people of Darfur: and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-127. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Montana repealing, rescinding, canceling, voiding, and superseding any and all extant application previously made by the Legislature to Congress to call a convention pursuant to the terms of Article V of the U.S. Constitution for proposing one or more amendments to it; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 38

Whereas, the Legislature of the State of Montana, acting with the best of intentions,

has, at various times and during various sessions, previously made applications to the Congress of the United States of America to call one or more conventions to propose either a single amendment concerning a specific subject or to call a general convention to propose an unspecified and unlimited number of amendments to the United States Constitution, pursuant to the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, former Chief Justice of the United States of America Warren E. Burger, former Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court Arthur J. Goldberg, and other leading constitutional scholars agree that such a convention may propose sweeping changes to the Constitution, any limitations or restrictions purportedly imposed by the states in applying for a convention or conventions to the contrary notwithstanding, thereby creating an imminent peril to the well-established rights of the citizens and the duties of various levels of government; and

Whereas, the Constitution of the United States of America has been amended many times in the history of this nation and may be amended many more times, without the need to resort to a constitutional convention, and has been interpreted for more than 200 years and has been found to be a sound document that protects the lives and liberties of the citizens; and

Whereas, there is no need for, and rather there is great danger in, a new Constitution or in opening the Constitution to sweeping changes, the adoption of which would only create legal chaos in this nation and only begin the process of another 2 centuries of litigation over its meaning and interpretation. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana, That the Legislature does hereby repeal, rescind, cancel, nullify, and supersede to the same effect as if they had never been passed any and all extant applications by the Legislature of the State of Montana to the Congress of the United States of America to call a convention to propose amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America, pursuant to the terms of Article V of the Constitution, regardless of when or by which session or sessions of the Montana Legislature the applications were made and regardless of whether the applications were for a limited convention to propose one or more amendments regarding one or more specific subjects and purposes or for a general convention to propose an unlimited number of amendments upon an unlimited number of subjects; and be it further

Resolved, That the following resolutions and memorials are specifically repealed, rescinded, canceled, nullified, and superseded: Joint Concurrent Resolution No. 2, 1901; House Joint Resolution No. 1, 1905; Senate Joint Resolution No. 1, 1907; House Joint Memorial No. 7, 1911; House Joint Resolution No. 13, 1963; and Senate Joint Resolution No. 5, 1965; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature of the State of Montana urges the Legislatures of each and every state that has applied to Congress to call a convention for either a general or a limited constitutional convention to repeal and rescind the applications; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State is directed to send copies of this resolution to the Secretary of State of each state in the Union, to the presiding officers of both houses of the Legislatures of each state in the Union, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to the Montana Congressional Delegation.