

the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs will hold a hearing entitled, "Credit Card Practices: Unfair Interest Rate Increases." The Subcommittee hearing will examine the circumstances under which credit card issuers may increase the interest rates of cardholders who are in compliance with the terms of their credit cards. This hearing will be a followup to the Subcommittee's March 2007 hearing, which examined practices related to credit card grace periods, interest charges assessed against debt that was paid on time, and excessive fees. Witnesses for the upcoming hearing will include a panel of cardholders who experienced interest rate increases, as well as representatives from credit card companies.

The Subcommittee hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., in room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a joint hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Energy of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

This joint hearing will examine the role of speculation in recent record crude oil prices.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following staff of the Finance Committee be allowed on the Senate floor for the duration of the debate and vote on the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement, and they are Ayesha Khanna, Matt Slonaker, Travis Cossitt, and Sam Anderson.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that John Kalitka, who is a detailee on my staff from the Department of Commerce, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the Senate's consideration of H.R. 3688.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 110-10

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous

consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on December 3, 2007, by the President of the United States:

Treaty with Australia Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation (Treaty Document 110-10).

I further ask that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred with accompanying papers to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

#### To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith for Senate advice and consent to ratification the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation, done at Sydney, September 5, 2007. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of State that includes an overview of this Treaty.

My Administration is prepared to provide to the Senate for its information other relevant documents, including proposed implementing arrangements to be concluded pursuant to the Treaty, relevant correspondence with the Government of Australia, and proposed amendments to the International Traffic in Arms Regulations.

This Treaty will allow for greater cooperation between the United States and Australia, enhancing the operational capabilities and interoperability of the armed forces of both countries. I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to this Treaty.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, December 3, 2007.

#### TO REPEAL A PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF CERTAIN FUNDS IN CALIFORNIA

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 238 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 238) to repeal a prohibition on the use of certain funds for tunneling in certain areas with respect to the Los Angeles to San Fernando Valley Metro Rail project, California.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a Dodd-Shelby amendment at the desk be agreed to, the bill as amended be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that

any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 3802) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend section 5307 of title 49, United States Code, to extend the special rule for the allocation of urbanized area formula grants through fiscal year 2009)

At the end of the bill, add the following:

#### SEC. 2. URBANIZED AREA FORMULA GRANTS.

Section 5307(b)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking "2007" and inserting "2009";

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking "2007" and inserting "2009"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(E) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS IN FISCAL YEARS 2008 AND 2009.—In fiscal years 2008 and 2009—

"(i) amounts made available to any urbanized area under clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) shall be not more than 50 percent of the amount apportioned in fiscal year 2002 to the urbanized area with a population of less than 200,000, as determined in the 1990 decennial census of population;

"(ii) amounts made available to any urbanized area under subparagraph (A)(iii) shall be not more than 50 percent of the amount apportioned to the urbanized area under this section for fiscal year 2003; and

"(iii) each portion of any area not designated as an urbanized area, as determined by the 1990 decennial census, and eligible to receive funds under subparagraph (A)(iv), shall receive an amount of funds to carry out this section that is not less than 50 percent of the amount the portion of the area received under section 5311 in fiscal year 2002."

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 238), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2007

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Tuesday, December 4; that on Tuesday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour deemed to be expired, and the time for the two leaders reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business for 60 minutes with the time equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and the first half controlled by the Republicans and the final half controlled by the majority; that at the close of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 3688 as provided under a previous order; that following the specified debate time provided on Tuesday, the Senate then stand in recess until 2:15 p.m. in order to accommodate the respective party conference meetings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.