

began regulating these catches, the number of bowhead whales in the Arctic has risen substantially.

The IWC, however, may not always produce the bowhead quota upon which Alaska natives depend due to political games. Over the last several years, I have seen other nations attempt to influence the U.S. position on other whaling issues at the IWC by specifically interfering with the native Alaskans bowhead quota votes. This is unacceptable. Any positions on whaling issues under IWC's purview need to be debated on their own merits. It is unthinkable to allow other countries to use the health and welfare of our Alaska natives, whose lives depend on this hunt, as leverage for influencing U.S. positions on other IWC matters.

The legislation I am introducing will ensure that native Alaskans maintain their rights to engage in subsistence whaling—an ancient practice vital to their culture and survival. This bill would amend the Whaling Convention Act of 1949 to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to issue bowhead whale catch limits for aboriginal subsistence whaling in Alaska native communities.

This bill ensures that the U.S. will continue to seek and negotiate bowhead whaling quota through the IWC. But if the IWC is unable to issue bowhead whaling quota, the Secretary of Commerce could then issue domestic aboriginal subsistence whaling permits. Such action would need to ensure consistency with IWC rules on subsistence whaling ensuring safe, sustainable, and humane hunts, and the harvest must not exceed the original subsistence needs recommended by the U.S.

The IWC has the great responsibility of ensuring that any subsistence whaling, now or in the future, is carried out in a scientifically sound and sustainable manner. I continue to support the IWC's efforts on this vital issue. yet the United States must also protect the rights of our native communities to continue their ancient subsistence bowhead harvesting. This bill strikes the proper balance between supporting IWC work and protecting our Alaska native communities. I thank my colleagues for considering this important legislation.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

**SENATE RESOLUTION 622—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 7, 2008, AS “NATIONAL HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WEEK”**

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs.

HUTCHISON, Mr. ISAKSON, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. OBAMA, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WICKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 622

Whereas there are 103 historically Black colleges and universities in the United States;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities provide the quality education essential to full participation in a complex, highly technological society;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities have a rich heritage and have played a prominent role in the history of the United States;

Whereas historically Black colleges and universities have allowed many underprivileged students to attain their full potential through higher education; and

Whereas the achievements and goals of historically Black colleges and universities are deserving of national recognition: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning September 7, 2008, as “National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week”; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate support for historically Black colleges and universities in the United States.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 623—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE OF THE LANDER TRAIL IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THE AMERICAN WEST ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDER TRAIL

Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 623

Whereas Frederick W. Lander first surveyed and supervised construction of the Lander Trail in 1858 to provide emigrants with a travelable link between the Oregon and California Trails;

Whereas 13,000 emigrants traveled on the Lander Trail during the settlement of the Western United States;

Whereas the Lander Trail was the first Federal road west of the Mississippi River;

Whereas travelers in the American West used the Lander Trail for 54 years until 1912; and

Whereas people can still experience the Lander Trail in the same setting that Frederick W. Lander first began construction in 1858: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate honors the important role of the Lander Trail in the settlement of the Western United States on the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Lander Trail.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a part of Wyoming's history that is celebrating its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary this year. The Lander Trail, which runs for 256 miles from South Pass, WY, to Fort Hall, ID, was an important part of the expansion

of the American West in the 1800s when people took up the challenge to “go west” and settle new territory. In 1858, Frederick W. Lander began surveying and construction for the first federally funded road west of the Mississippi to provide a better route for emigrants headed to California, Oregon, and a new life on the frontier. Today, I would like to recognize the historical role the Lander Trail played in Wyoming and the American West.

It was tough going for emigrants going west in the 1850s. The dangerous journey halfway across the country could take 6 months or more. After the Lander Trail was completed, it was a better road through easier territory. Emigrants headed to California or Oregon could cut 7 days off their journey by following the Lander Trail, and there were good sources of food, water, and forage for livestock along the way. Thirteen thousand people traveled the Lander Trail on their way to homestead in western territories or to pan for gold in California. The Lander Trail is part of the National Historic Trails system and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Lander Trail can still be seen today in Wyoming and the land looks almost the same as it did when Frederick Lander first started surveying it. The work of groups in Wyoming like the Lander Trail Foundation have ensured that the history of this unique piece of my State is being preserved and that people today can go and see and experience the Lander Trail. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the role that the Lander Trail has played in the history of my State of Wyoming and the settlement of the American West.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5114. Mr. DOMENICI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3268, to amend the Commodity Exchange Act, to prevent excessive price speculation with respect to energy commodities, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5115. Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3268, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5116. Mr. DOMENICI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3268, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5117. Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3268, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5118. Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3268, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5119. Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. KYL, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3268, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5120. Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him