

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 7, 2009, to conduct a business meeting.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 7, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "Auctioning under Cap and Trade: Design, Participation and Distribution of Revenues".

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate on May 7, 2009, to conduct a hearing. The hearing will commence at 10 a.m., in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate on May 7, 2009. The hearing will commence at 2 p.m., in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 7, 2009, at 2:15 p.m., in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct an executive business meeting on Thursday, May 7, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Energy be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing on Thursday, May 7, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, May 7, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. to conduct a hearing entitled, "Uncle Sam Wants You!: Recruitment in the Federal Government."

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

URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO END THE COMMERCIAL SEAL HUNT

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 57, S. Res. 84.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 84) urging the Government of Canada to end the commercial seal hunt.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 84) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 84

Whereas the Government of Canada permits an annual commercial hunt for seals in the waters off the east coast of Canada;

Whereas an international outcry regarding the plight of the seals hunted in Canada resulted in the 1983 ban by the European Union of whitecoat and blueback seal skins and the subsequent collapse of the commercial seal hunt in Canada;

Whereas the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) bars the import into the United States of any seal products;

Whereas, in recent years, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans of Canada has authorized historically high quotas for harp seals;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 seals have been killed during the past 4 years;

Whereas harp seal pups can legally be hunted in Canada as soon as they have begun to molt their white coats, at approximately 12 days of age;

Whereas 97 percent of the seals killed are pups between just 12 days and 12 weeks of age;

Whereas, in 2007, an international panel of experts in veterinary medicine and zoology was invited by the Humane Society of the

United States to observe the commercial seal slaughter in Canada;

Whereas the report by the panel noted that sealers failed to comply with sealing regulations in Canada and that officials of the Government of Canada failed to enforce such regulations;

Whereas the report also concluded that the killing methods permitted during the commercial seal hunt in Canada are inherently inhumane and should be prohibited;

Whereas many seals are shot in the course of the hunt and escape beneath the ice where they die slowly and are never recovered;

Whereas such seals are not properly counted in official kill statistics, increasing the likelihood that the actual kill level is far higher than the level that is reported;

Whereas the few thousand fishermen who participate in the commercial seal hunt in Canada earn, on average, only a tiny fraction of their annual income from killing seals;

Whereas members of the fishing and sealing industries in Canada continue to justify the seal hunt on the grounds that the seals in the Northwest Atlantic are preventing the recovery of cod stocks, despite the lack of any credible scientific evidence to support this claim;

Whereas the consensus in the international scientific community is that culling seals will not assist in the recovery of fish stocks and that seals are a vital part of the fragile marine ecosystem of the Northwest Atlantic;

Whereas polling consistently shows that the overwhelming majority of people in Canada oppose the commercial seal hunt;

Whereas the vast majority of seal products are exported from Canada, and the sealing industry relies on international markets for its products;

Whereas 10 countries have prohibited trade in seal products in recent years, and the European Union is now considering a prohibition on trade in seal products; and

Whereas the persistence of this cruel and needless commercial hunt is inconsistent with the well-earned international reputation of Canada: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges the Government of Canada to prohibit the commercial hunting of seals; and

(2) strongly supports an unconditional prohibition by the European Union on trade in seal products.

NATIONAL TRAIN DAY

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 125.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 125) in support and recognition of National Train Day, May 9, 2009.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 125) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 125

Whereas, in May 1869, the "golden spike" was driven into the final tie at Promontory Summit, Utah to join the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific Railroads, ceremonially completing the first transcontinental railroad and therefore connecting both coasts of the United States;

Whereas, Amtrak trains and infrastructure carry commuters to and from work in congested metropolitan areas providing a reliable rail option and reducing congestion on roads and in the skies;

Whereas, for many rural Americans, Amtrak represents the only major intercity transportation link to the rest of the country;

Whereas, passenger trains provide a more fuel-efficient transportation system thereby providing cleaner transportation alternatives and energy security;

Whereas, intercity passenger rail was 18 percent more energy efficient than airplanes and 25 percent more energy efficient than automobiles on a per-passenger-mile basis in 2006;

Whereas, Amtrak annually provides intercity passenger rail travel to over 28 million Americans residing in 46 states;

Whereas, an increasing number of people are using trains for travel purposes beyond commuting to and from work; and

Whereas, community railroad stations are a source of civic pride, a gateway to over 500 of our Nation's communities, and a tool for economic growth: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the goals and ideals of National Train Day, as designated by Amtrak.

HONORING CONCERNS OF POLICE SURVIVORS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 138 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 138) honoring Concerns of Police Survivors for 25 years of service to family members of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I am honored once again to submit this resolution to the Senate commemorating our Nation's law enforcement officers and National Peace Officers Memorial Day. The Senate's official recognition of National Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week is a tradition I am proud to carry out each year, and I look forward to the Senate taking up and passing this resolution.

In 2008, 133 law enforcement officers died while serving in the line of duty. We honor their memory. Though this is a decrease from 2007, it is no less tragic a loss to our Federal and state law enforcement community and to their families and friends. The fact that we commemorate the loss and bravery of so many in law enforcement each year should remove any doubts in Congress that it is necessary to give our peace officers everything they need to stay safe and to do their jobs as effectively as they can.

Currently, more than 900,000 men and women work tirelessly to protect our communities, our schools, and our children. They investigate and apprehend the most violent criminals and do more than we know in keeping our communities safe and secure. Since the first recorded police death in 1792, the names of 18,274 law enforcement officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice have been added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

I also take this opportunity to recognize that the names of 387 fallen officers will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial on May 13 during a candlelight vigil that will be held in their honor. These are officers from the past and present whose memory will be preserved for all time at the memorial, ensuring that their bravery and sacrifice will not be forgotten.

National Peace Officers Memorial Day provides the people of the United States, in their communities, in their State capitals, and in the Nation's Capital, with the opportunity to honor and reflect on the extraordinary service and sacrifice given year after year by those members of our police forces. More than 20,000 peace officers are expected to gather in Washington in the days leading up to May 15, to join with the families of their fallen comrades. It is right that the Senate show its respect on this occasion, and I am proud to honor their service and their memory. I urge all Senators to join me in approving this resolution.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The resolution (S. Res. 138) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 138

Whereas May 14, 2009, marks the 25th anniversary of the founding of Concerns of Police Survivors;

Whereas, for 25 years, Concerns of Police Survivors has answered one of the highest and most noble calls to service by providing compassionate care and support to family members of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty;

Whereas, for 25 years, Concerns of Police Survivors has been a bedrock of strength for those family members in helping them rebuild their shattered lives;

Whereas, for 25 years, Concerns of Police Survivors has showed the highest amount of concern and respect for the tens of thousands of family members of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty;

Whereas those family members bear the most immediate and profound burden of the absences of their loved ones;

Whereas Concerns of Police Survivors facilitates healing and provides love and renewed life to those family members far from the eye of the media and the general public;

Whereas it is essential that the people of the United States are made aware of the good works of Concerns of Police Survivors and recognize the contributions of Concerns of Police Survivors to so many families; and

Whereas National Police Week, observed in 2009 from May 10 to May 16, is the most appropriate time to honor Concerns of Police Survivors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors Concerns of Police Survivors for 25 years of service to the family members of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty across the United States;

(2) recognizes and thanks Concerns of Police Survivors for assisting in rebuilding the shattered lives of those family members through the organization's invaluable programs;

(3) urges the people of the United States to join with the Senate in thanking Concerns of Police Survivors on behalf of the Nation; and

(4) recognizes with great appreciation the sacrifices made by the families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in providing essential support to one another.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 101-509, the appointment of Steve Zink, of Nevada, to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 11, 2009

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it adjourn until 2 p.m., Monday, May 11; that following the prayer and the pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; that following morning business, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 627, as previously ordered.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 1010 to and including 128, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that all the nominations be confirmed en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order; that any statements relating to the nominations appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows: