

Whereas awareness of the impact of hemangiomas and vascular anomalies on children, their families, and society will lead to improvements in the care of children with hemangiomas;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health supports research on the treatment of, and cure for, hemangiomas and other vascular anomalies;

Whereas The Hemangioma Treatment Foundation has the unique mission of providing treatment to children affected with hemangiomas and other vascular anomalies; and

Whereas The Hemangioma Treatment Foundation is dedicated to finding a cure for hemangiomas and other vascular anomalies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 1, 2009, as “National Hemangioma Treatment Awareness Day”; and

(2) respectfully requests that the Secretary of Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to The Hemangioma Treatment Foundation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 325—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 25 THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2009, AS “NATIONAL HISPANIC MEDIA WEEK” IN HONOR OF THE LATINO MEDIA OF AMERICA

Mr. REID (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 325

Whereas for almost 470 years the United States has benefitted from the work of Hispanic writers and publishers;

Whereas there are over 800 Hispanic newspapers with a circulation of 17,800,000, and over 550 Hispanic magazines with a circulation of 31,600,000;

Whereas Hispanic television and radio programs respond to the bilingual needs of the United States Latino population;

Whereas market research estimates that the reach of Spanish language television is nearly universal;

Whereas 1 in 8 Americans is served by a Hispanic publication throughout the Nation;

Whereas the Latino print media generated \$1,400,000,000 in revenue last year, despite adverse economic conditions;

Whereas the Hispanic press informs many Americans about significant political, economic, and social issues of our day;

Whereas the Hispanic press in the United States focuses in particular on informing and promoting the well being of our country’s Hispanic community; and

Whereas commemorating the achievements of the Hispanic press acknowledges the important role the Hispanic press has played in United States history: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 25 through October 31, 2009, as “National Hispanic Media Week” in honor of the Latino Media of America; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate programs and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2703. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, to amend the Supplemental

Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2704. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2705. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2699 submitted by Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. DODD) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3548, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2706. Mrs. MCCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3548, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2707. Mr. BROWNBACK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2847, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2703. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, after line 22, add the following:
SEC. 205. EB-5 REGIONAL CENTER PROGRAM.

Section 610 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (8 U.S.C. 1153 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “pilot” each place it appears; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “for 15 years”.

SA 2704. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 7, after line 9, add the following:

SEC. 6. EB-5 REGIONAL CENTER PROGRAM.

Section 610 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (8 U.S.C. 1153 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “pilot” each place it appears; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “for 15 years”.

SA 2705. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2699 submitted by Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. DODD) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 3548, to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 5, line 22, strike all through page 7, line 9, and insert the following:

(b) DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT.—Subsection (d) of section 36 of such Code is amended by striking “or” at the end of paragraph (1), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting a comma, and by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(3) the taxpayer fails to attach to the return of tax for such taxable year a properly executed copy of the settlement statement used to complete such purchase, or

“(4) the taxpayer fails to attach to the return of tax for such taxable year a certified statement of the taxpayer’s eligibility for the tax credit issued by the real estate reporting person (as defined in section 6045(e)(2)) with respect to such purchase.”.

(c) RESTRICTION ON MARRIED INDIVIDUAL ACQUIRING RESIDENCE FROM FAMILY OF SPOUSE.—Clause (i) of section 36(c)(3)(A) of such Code is amended by inserting “(or, if married, such individual’s spouse)” after “person acquiring such property”.

(d) CERTAIN ERRORS WITH RESPECT TO THE FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER TAX CREDIT TREATED AS MATHEMATICAL OR CLERICAL ERRORS.—Paragraph (2) of section 6213(g) of such Code, as amended by this Act, is amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (N), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (O) and inserting “, and”, and by inserting after subparagraph (O) the following new subparagraph:

“(P) an entry on a return claiming the credit under section 36 if—

“(i) the Secretary obtains information from the person issuing the TIN of the taxpayer that indicates that the taxpayer does not meet the age requirement of section 36(b)(3),

“(ii) information provided to the Secretary by the taxpayer on an income tax return for at least one of the 2 preceding taxable years is inconsistent with eligibility for such credit, or

“(iii) the taxpayer fails to attach to the return the form described in paragraph (3) or (4) of section 36(d).”.

(e) INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION; REPORT.—The Commissioner of Internal Revenue shall take such steps as are necessary to investigate and prosecute instances of fraud related to the first-time homebuyer tax credit under section 36 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue shall provide reports to Congress on the status of the investigatory and prosecutorial actions not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and quarterly thereafter.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

SA 2706. Mrs. MCCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 3548, to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end add the following:

SEC. . WAIVER OF RECAPTURE OF FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER CREDIT FOR INDIVIDUALS ON QUALIFIED OFFICIAL EXTENDED DUTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 36(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) SPECIAL RULE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, ETC.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of the disposition of a principal residence by an individual (or a cessation referred to in paragraph (2)) after December 31, 2008, in connection with

Government orders received by such individual, or such individual's spouse, for qualified official extended duty service—

“(I) paragraph (2) and subsection (d)(2) shall not apply to such disposition (or cessation), and

“(II) if such residence was acquired before January 1, 2009, paragraph (1) shall not apply to the taxable year in which such disposition (or cessation) occurs or any subsequent taxable year.

“(ii) QUALIFIED OFFICIAL EXTENDED DUTY SERVICE.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘qualified official extended duty service’ means service on qualified official extended duty as—

“(I) a member of the uniformed services,

“(II) a member of the Foreign Service of the United States, or

“(III) as an employee of the intelligence community.

“(iii) DEFINITIONS.—Any term used in this subparagraph which is also used in paragraph (9) of section 121(d) shall have the same meaning as when used in such paragraph.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to dispositions and cessations after December 31, 2008.

SEC. ____ . EXTENSION OF FIRST-TIME HOME-BUYER CREDIT FOR INDIVIDUALS ON QUALIFIED OFFICIAL EXTENDED DUTY OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (h) of section 36 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by striking “This section” and inserting “(1) IN GENERAL.—This section”, and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) SPECIAL RULES FOR INDIVIDUALS ON QUALIFIED OFFICIAL EXTENDED DUTY OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—In the case of any individual who serves on qualified official extended duty service outside the United States for at least 90 days in calendar year 2009 and, if married, such individual's spouse—

“(A) paragraph (1) shall be applied by substituting ‘December 1, 2010’ for ‘December 1, 2009’,

“(B) subsection (f)(4)(D) shall be applied by substituting ‘December 1, 2010’ for ‘December 1, 2009’, and

“(C) in lieu of subsection (g), in the case of a purchase of a principal residence after December 31, 2009, and before July 1, 2010, the taxpayer may elect to treat such purchase as made on December 31, 2009, for purposes of this section (other than subsections (c) and (f)(4)(D)).”.

(b) COORDINATION WITH FIRST-TIME HOME-BUYER CREDIT FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—Paragraph (4) of section 1400C(e) of such Code is amended by inserting “(December 1, 2010, in the case of a purchase subject to section 36(h)(2))” after “December 1, 2009”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to residences purchased after November 30, 2009.

SEC. ____ . EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME OF QUALIFIED MILITARY BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE FRINGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (n) of section 132 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (1) by striking “this subsection) to offset the adverse effects on housing values as a result of a military base realignment or closure” and inserting “the American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009”, and

(2) in subparagraph (2) by striking “clause (1) of”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this act shall apply to payments made after February 17, 2009.

SEC. ____ . INCREASE IN PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO FILE A PARTNERSHIP OR S CORPORATION RETURN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 6698(b)(1) and 6699(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are each amended by striking “\$89” and inserting “\$110”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to returns for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2009.

SEC. ____ . TIME FOR PAYMENT OF CORPORATE ESTIMATED TAXES.

The percentage under paragraph (1) of section 202(b) of the Corporate Estimated Tax Shift Act of 2009 in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act is increased by 0.5 percentage points.

SA 2707. Mr. BROWNBACK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2847, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 203, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

TITLE VI—CONGO CONFLICT MINERALS

SEC. 601. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Democratic Republic of Congo was devastated by a civil war carried out in 1996 and 1997 and a war that began in 1998 and ended in 2003, which resulted in widespread human rights violations and the intervention of multiple armed forces or armed non-state actors from other countries in the region.

(2) Despite the signing of a peace agreement and subsequent withdrawal of foreign forces in 2003, the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo has continued to suffer from high levels of poverty, insecurity, and a culture of impunity, in which illegal armed groups and military forces continue to commit widespread human rights abuses.

(3) According to a study by the International Rescue Committee released in January 2008, conflict and related humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo have resulted in the deaths of an estimated 5,400,000 people since 1998 and continue to cause as many as 45,000 deaths each month.

(4) Sexual violence and rape remain pervasive tools of warfare used by all parties in eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo to terrorize and humiliate communities, resulting in community break down which causes a decrease in the ability of affected communities to resist control by illegal armed forces and a loss of community access to minerals. Sexual violence and rape affect hundreds of thousands of women and girls, frequently resulting in traumatic fistula, other severe genital injuries, and long-term psychological trauma.

(5) A report released by the Government Accountability Office in December 2007 describes how the mismanagement and illicit trade of extractive resources from the Democratic Republic of Congo supports conflict between militias and armed domestic factions in neighboring countries.

(6) In October 2002, the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of Congo called on member states of the United Nations to adopt measures, consistent with the guidelines established for multinational enterprises by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, to ensure that enterprises in their jurisdiction do not abuse principles of conduct that they have adopted as a matter of law.

(7) In February 2008, the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of Congo stated, “individuals and entities buying mineral output from areas of the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo with a strong rebel presence are violating the sanctions regime when they do not exercise due diligence to ensure their mineral purchases do not provide assistance to illegal armed groups” and defined due diligence as including the following:

(A) Determining the precise identity of the deposits from which the minerals they intend to purchase have been mined.

(B) Establishing whether or not these deposits are controlled or taxed by illegal armed groups.

(C) Refusing to buy minerals known to originate, or suspected to originate, from deposits controlled or taxed by illegal armed groups.

(8) In its final report, released on December 12, 2008, the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo found that official exports of columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, wolframite, and gold are grossly undervalued and that various illegal armed groups in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo continue to profit greatly from these natural resources by coercively exercising control over mining sites from where they are extracted and locations along which they are transported for export.

(9) United Nations Security Council Resolution 1857, unanimously adopted on December 22, 2008—

(A) broadens existing sanctions relating to the Democratic Republic of Congo to include “individuals or entities supporting the illegal armed groups . . . through illicit trade of natural resources.”; and

(B) encourages member countries to ensure that companies handling minerals from the Democratic Republic of Congo exercise due diligence on their suppliers.

(10) Continued weak governance in the Democratic Republic of Congo has allowed the illicit trade in the minerals columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, wolframite, and gold to flourish, which empowers illegal armed groups, undermines local development, and results in a loss or misuse of tax revenue for the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The development of stronger governance and economic institutions that support legitimate cross-border trade in such minerals would—

(A) help prevent the exploitation of such minerals by illegal armed groups; and

(B) enable the hundreds of thousands of people who depend on such minerals for their livelihoods to benefit from such minerals.

(11) Metals derived from columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, wolframite, and gold from the Democratic Republic of Congo are used in diverse technological products sold worldwide, including mobile telephones, laptop computers, and digital video recorders.

(12) In February 2009, the Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition and the Global e-Sustainability Initiative released a statement asserting that—

(A) use by the information communications technology industry of mined commodities that support conflict in such countries as the Democratic Republic of Congo is unacceptable; and

(B) electronics companies can and should uphold responsible practices in their operations and work with suppliers to meet social and environmental standards with respect to the raw materials used in the manufacture of their products.

(13) Notwithstanding the extensiveness of the supply chains of technological products and the extensiveness of the processing

stages for the metals derived from columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, wolframite, and gold used in such products, companies that create and sell products that include such metals have the ability to influence the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo by—

(A) exercising due diligence in ensuring that their suppliers provide raw materials in a manner that does not—

(i) directly finance armed conflict;

(ii) result in labor or human rights violations; or

(iii) damage the environment;

(B) verifying—

(i) the country from which the minerals used to derive such metals originate;

(ii) the identity of the exporter of the minerals; and

(iii) that all appropriate tax payments are made; and

(C) committing to support mineral exporters from the Democratic Republic of Congo who—

(i) fully disclose their export payments; and

(ii) certify that their minerals do not—

(I) directly finance armed conflict;

(II) result in labor or human rights violations; or

(III) damage the environment.

SEC. 602. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States, as affirmed by the Democratic Republic of Congo Relief, Security, and Development Promotion Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-456; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note) and consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1857 (2008), to promote peace and security in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo by supporting efforts of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, other governments in the Great Lakes Region of Africa, and the international community—

(1) to monitor and stop commercial activities involving the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of Congo that contribute to illegal armed groups and human rights violations in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and

(2) to develop stronger governance and economic institutions that can facilitate and improve transparency in the cross-border trade involving the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of Congo in order to reduce exploitation by illegal armed groups and promote local and regional development.

SEC. 603. INVESTIGATION, REPORTS, AND STRATEGY REGARDING COLUMBITE-TANTALITE, CASSITERITE, WOLFRAMITE, GOLD, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO.

(a) SUPPORT OF MANDATE OF UNITED NATIONS GROUP OF EXPERTS ON THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO.—The President, acting through the Secretary of State, the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and other appropriate United States Government officials, shall use the voice and vote of the United States at the United Nations Security Council to renew the mandate and strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of Congo to investigate links between natural resources and the financing of illegal armed groups, and ensure that the Group of Experts' recommendations are given serious consideration.

(b) MAP OF MINERAL-RICH ZONES AND ARMED GROUPS IN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall, consistent with the recommendation from the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic

Republic of Congo in their December 2008 report, work with other member states of the United Nations and local and international nongovernmental organizations—

(A) to produce a map of mineral-rich zones and armed groups in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo; and

(B) to make such map available to the public.

(2) UPDATES.—The Secretary of State shall update the map required by paragraph (1) not less frequently than once every 180 days until the Secretary of State certifies that no armed party to any ongoing armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo or any other country is involved in the mining, sale, or export of columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, wolframite, or gold, or the control thereof, or derives benefits from such activities.

(c) GUIDANCE FOR COMMERCIAL ENTITIES.—The Secretary of State shall, consistent with the recommendation from the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of Congo in their December 2008 report, work with other member states of the United Nations and local and international nongovernmental organizations to provide guidance to commercial entities seeking to exercise due diligence on their suppliers to ensure that the raw materials used in their products do not—

(1) directly finance armed conflict;

(2) result in labor or human rights violations; or

(3) damage the environment.

(d) STRATEGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall, working with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategy to address the linkages that exist between human rights abuses, armed groups, and the mining of columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, wolframite, and gold in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

(2) CONTENTS.—The strategy required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A plan to assist the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo and other governments in the region in establishing and effectively implementing the necessary frameworks and institutions to formalize and improve transparency in the trade of columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, wolframite, and gold.

(B) An outline of assistance currently being provided and an assessment of future assistance that could be provided by the Government of the United States to help the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo strengthen the management and export of natural resources in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

(C) A description of punitive measures that could be taken against individuals or entities whose commercial activities are supporting illegal armed groups and human rights violations in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

(e) ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS.—In preparing those portions of the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices relating to the Democratic Republic of Congo or countries that share a border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Secretary of State shall ensure that such reports include a description of any instances or patterns of practice that indicate that the extraction and cross-border trade in columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, wolframite, or gold has negatively affected human rights conditions or supported specific human rights violations, sexual or gender-based violence, or labor abuses in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo, during the period covered by each report.

(f) ANNUAL ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT.—In preparing the United States' annual report to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Investment Committee, the Secretary of State shall include a description of efforts by the United States to ensure, consistent with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, that enterprises under United States jurisdiction are exercising due diligence to ensure that their purchases of minerals or metals are not originating from mines and trading routes that are used to finance or benefit illegal armed groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State for fiscal year 2010 such sums as may be necessary for the Secretary to carry out the provisions of this section.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS.—The term "Human Rights Reports" means all reports submitted by the Secretary of State to Congress under sections 116 and 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n and 2304).

SEC. 604. DISCLOSURE TO SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OF ACTIVITIES RELATING TO COLUMBITE-TANTALITE, CASSITERITE, AND WOLFRAMITE INDUSTRIES.

Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(m) DISCLOSURE TO COMMISSION OF ACTIVITIES RELATING TO COLUMBITE-TANTALITE, CASSITERITE, AND WOLFRAMITE INDUSTRIES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall promulgate rules requiring any person described in paragraph (2)—

"(A) to disclose annually to the Commission the country of origin of columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, or wolframite related to any of the activities described in paragraph (3);

"(B) if disclosure is required under subparagraph (A) and the country of origin disclosed under subparagraph (A) is the Democratic Republic of Congo or an adjoining country, to disclose annually to the Commission the mine of origin of such columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, and wolframite; and

"(C) if disclosure is required under subparagraph (A) or subparagraph (B) for columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, or wolframite, to submit along with such disclosure an independent audit of the supply chain of such columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, or wolframite to ensure that such disclosure is accurate.

"(2) PERSON DESCRIBED.—A person is described in this paragraph if the person—

"(A) is required to file reports to the Commission under subsection (a); and

"(B) either—

"(i) engages in activities described in paragraph (3); or

"(ii) controls a person that engages in activities described in paragraph (3).

"(3) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—An activity described in this paragraph is—

“(A) the commercial exploration, extraction, importation, exportation, or sale of columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, or wolframite; or

“(B) the use of such minerals, derivatives of such minerals, components that include such minerals, or components that include derivatives of such minerals in the manufacture of a product for sale.

“(4) REVISIONS AND WAIVERS.—The Commission may revise or temporarily waive the requirements described in paragraph (1) if the Commission determines that such revision or waiver is—

“(A) necessary for the protection of investors; and

“(B) in the public interest.

“(5) TERMINATION OF DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—The disclosure requirements of this subsection shall terminate if the President—

“(A) determines that—

“(i) no armed party to any ongoing armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo or any other country—

“(I) is involved in an activity described in paragraph (3)(A) with respect to columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, or wolframite; or

“(II) derives benefits from such activity; or

“(ii) a regional framework has been established and effectively implemented to monitor and regulate the activities described in paragraph (3)(A) with respect to columbite-tantalite, cassiterite, or wolframite in the Democratic Republic of Congo so that such activities do not finance or benefit illegal armed groups; and

“(B) notifies the Commission of the determination under subparagraph (A).

“(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Commission for fiscal year 2010 such sums as may be necessary for the Commission to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

“(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the following definitions shall apply:

“(A) ADJOINING COUNTRY.—The term ‘adjoining country’, with respect to the Democratic Republic of Congo, means a country that shares an internationally recognized border with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

“(B) CONTROL.—The term ‘control’ means—

“(i) in the case of a corporation, ownership of at least 50 percent of the voting stock of the corporation; and

“(ii) in the case of any other entity, ownership of interests representing at least 50 percent of the voting capital of the entity.

“(C) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ‘foreign person’ means a person—

“(i) in the case of an individual, who is an alien as such term is defined in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)); or

“(ii) in the case of a partnership, corporation, or other entity, that is organized under the laws of a foreign country or that has its principal place of business in a foreign country.

“(D) PERSON.—The term ‘person’ has the meaning given the term in section 3(a) but does not include—

“(i) any foreign nongovernmental organization that—

“(I) has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council; or

“(II) has been accredited by a department or specialized agency of the United Nations; or

“(ii) a foreign person whose business activities are strictly limited to providing goods and services that are—

“(I) intended to relieve human suffering;

“(II) intended to promote welfare, health, religious, or spiritual activities;

“(III) used for educational or humanitarian purposes;

“(IV) used for journalistic activities; or

“(V) used for such other purposes as the Secretary of State may determine serve the foreign policy interests of the United States.”.

SEC. 605. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ASSISTANCE FOR AFFECTED COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ASSISTANCE FOR AFFECTED COMMUNITIES.—It is the sense of Congress that the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development should expand and better coordinate programs to assist and empower communities in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo whose livelihoods depend on the mineral trade, particularly—

(1) communities affected by sexual and gender-based violence; and

(2) individuals displaced by violence.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FUTURE YEAR FUNDING.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State and the Administrator should work with the appropriate congressional committees to increase assistance in fiscal years beginning after fiscal year 2009 for communities affected by violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo, specifically—

(1) to provide medical treatment, psychological support, and rehabilitation assistance for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence;

(2) to provide humanitarian relief and basic services to people displaced by violence;

(3) to improve living conditions and livelihood prospects for artisanal miners and mine workers; and

(4) to alleviate poverty by reconstructing infrastructure and revitalizing agricultural production.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON COORDINATION OF ASSISTANCE.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should work with other countries, on a bilateral and multilateral basis—

(1) to increase protection and services for communities in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo at risk of human rights violations associated with the mineral trade, particularly women and girls;

(2) to strengthen the management and trade of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and

(3) to improve the conditions and livelihood prospects of artisanal miners and mine workers.

SEC. 606. REPORT.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report that includes the following:

(1) An assessment of the effectiveness of the provisions of this Act and section 13(m) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(m)), as added by section 5, in promoting peace and security in accordance with section 3.

(2) A description of the problems, if any, encountered by the President, officials described in section 4(a), the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development in carrying out the provisions of this Act and such section 13(m).

(3) A description of the adverse impacts of carrying out the provisions of this Act and such section 13(m), if any, on communities in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

(4) Recommendations for legislative or regulatory actions that can be taken—

(A) to improve the effectiveness of the provisions of this Act and such section 13(m) to promote peace and security in accordance with section 3;

(B) to resolve the problems described pursuant to paragraph (2), if any; and

(C) to mitigate the adverse impacts described pursuant paragraph (3), if any.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 27, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 27, 2009, at 2:15 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. CARDIN. 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 October 27, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to hold a hearing entitled, “Legislative Hearing on S. 1733, Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act.”

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 27, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MARKETING, INSPECTION AND PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION, INCOME PROTECTION, AND PRICE SUPPORT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Subcommittee on Domestic and Foreign Marketing, Inspection and Plant and Animal Health and the Subcommittee on Production, Income Protection, and Price Support, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on October 27, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. in room 216 of the Hart Senate Office Building.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to the following member of my staff during the pendency of this nomination: Troy Ware.