Order'' (RIN1018–AW80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2009; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3613. A communication from the Program Manager, Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''HIPAA Administrative Simplification: Enforcement'' (RIN0991–AB55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2009; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3614. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment to a technical assistance agreement for the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services to the United Arab Emirates relative to the post-delivery modifications and integrated logistics support of four CH–47F Chinook Helicopters in the amount of $50,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3615. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel of the Division of Regulatory Services, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal Family Education Loan Program, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program'' (RIN1840–AC98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 5, 2009; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments:

S. 1472. A bill to establish a section within the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice to enforce human rights laws, to make technical and conforming amendments to criminal and immigration laws pertaining to human rights violations, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 2747. A bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 2748. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend for one year the employer wage credit for employees who are active duty members of the uniformed services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2749. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve access to nutritious meals for young children in child care; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 2750. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to eligible States for the purpose of reducing the student-to-school nurse ratio in public secondary schools, elementary schools, and kindergarten; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. REID:

S. Res. 343. A resolution to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. REID, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. BURR, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. BYRD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. COBURN, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CORKER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. GREGG, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAUFMAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. KIRK, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KYL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEMIEUX, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VITTER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WEBB, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 344. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the tragic shooting at Fort Hood, Texas on November 5, 2009; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 327

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 327, a bill to amend the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to improve assistance to domestic and sexual violence victims and provide for technical corrections.

S. 456

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. KAUFMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 456, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, to develop guidelines to be used on a voluntary basis to develop plans to manage the risk of food allergy and anaphylaxis in schools and early childhood education programs, to establish school-based food allergy management grants, and for other purposes.

S. 1055

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1055, a bill to grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

S. 1128

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1128, a bill to authorize the award of a military service medal to members of the Armed Forces who were exposed to ionizing radiation as a result of participation in the testing of nuclear weapons or under other circumstances.

S. 1183

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1183, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide assistance to the Government of Haiti to end within 5 years the deforestation in Haiti and restore within 30 years the extent of tropical forest cover in existence in Haiti in 1990, and for other purposes.

S. 1490

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1490, a bill to prevent and mitigate identity theft, to ensure privacy, to provide notice of security breaches, and to enhance criminal penalties, law enforcement assistance, and other protections against security breaches, fraudulent access, and misuse of personally identifiable information.

S. 1492

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1492, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to fund breakthroughs in Alzheimer's disease research while providing more help to caregivers and increasing public education about prevention.

S. 1619

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1619, a bill to establish the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities, to establish the Interagency Council on Sustainable Communities, to establish a comprehensive planning grant program, to establish a sustainability challenge grant program, and for other purposes.

S. 1737

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1737, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase the number of children eligible for free school meals, with a phased-in transition period.

S. 1740

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1740, a bill to promote the economic security and safety of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and for other purposes.

S. 1761

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1761, a bill to provide an extension of the low-income housing credit placed-in-service date requirement for certain disaster areas.

S. 1861

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1861, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a 2-year extension of the increased rehabilitation credit for structures in the Gulf Opportunity Zone.

S. 1930

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. BURRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1930, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the administration of, and reduce fraud related to, the first-time homebuyer tax credit, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS):

S. 2747. A bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Land and Water Conservation Authorization and Funding Act of 2009. I am pleased that Senator BAUCUS has joined me as an original cosponsor.

The legislation I am introducing today will provide consistent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, LWCF, program at a time when its purposes have never been more important to our communities and quality of life. This program provides funding for States and Federal land management agencies for the purchase of land and interests in land from willing sellers. Since its inception in 1964, LWCF has led to the protection of more than five million acres of land and water across the country, including such irreplaceable landscapes as the Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona, the redwood forests in California, the Rocky Mountain Front in Montana, and Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska.

In my own State of New Mexico, LWCF funds have been used in many important landscapes including the Santa Fe National Forest to provide hundreds of miles of trails for hiking, horseback riding and off-road vehicle use, and to protect the unique Valles Caldera from development. Going forward, the Bureau of Land Management hopes to protect portions of the Rio Grande National Wild and Scenic River in New Mexico using LWCF funds.

Equally important, this program's flexibility means that it also is used to protect what is sometimes most valuable to our communities—the lesser-known special places virtually in our own backyard. The availability of portions of this funding to States means that it can be used to protect local landscapes when development threatens the open spaces that communities need for clean water and recreation. It is also available for the purchase of conservation easements when public ownership of land is not the best solution. These easements—acquired at the request of the landowner—protect the landscape against development while retaining private ownership.

Since its inception in 1964, the law has provided that the Land and Water Conservation Fund will accumulate revenues from Federal outdoor recreation user fees, the Federal motorboat fuel tax, surplus property sales, and from oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf. It has been authorized at $900 million a year since 1977. In establishing LWCF, Congress recognized the importance of the protection of lands with significant natural, recreation and scenic attributes, and for the development of outdoor recreation lands and facilities at the State and local level.

Under current law these funds cannot be spent until they are further appropriated each year. Congress has rarely appropriated the $900 million annually that was authorized as necessary as far back as 1977. The levels of funding for both Federal agencies and States have fluctuated wildly over the years. In addition, LWCF itself will expire in 2015 if not reauthorized.

However, the purpose of LWCF—the acquisition of land and interests in land—is one that requires consistency and predictability in order to be truly effective. The opportunity for land purchase can emerge quickly and can be quickly lost. The cost often requires that deals be structured over a period of time. The absence of a consistent amount of funding annually makes it virtually impossible for Federal agencies or States to plan effectively or to ensure that they can protect those areas most important to communities and to the nation as a whole and at the lowest cost.

Protection of special places and landscapes for the common good has always been a great American idea that we have exported to the rest of the world. These lands are a wonderful gift that every taxpayer receives at birth, and values very highly. Today, even more than when LWCF was enacted, there is increasing pressure on our natural landscapes, both as a result of man-made development and changes in our climate. It is more imperative than ever that we protect and restore our ecosystems so that they stay resilient. By protecting natural systems, we are protecting human health and the economy by providing clean water, clean air, livable coastal areas and the quality of life that is so important to all Americans.

The time has come to make sure that the Land and Water Conservation Fund has consistent and predictable funding and that it continues beyond 2015. This bill will not change the authorized amount or the well-established purposes and parameters of the Fund. It simply provides that the monies deposited in the Fund under current law will be available without further appropriation at the authorized amount. It is my hope that this will be a down payment on something vitally important to all Americans—protection and conservation of our natural heritage and our most special places for ourselves and for future generations.

I would like to thank Senator BAUCUS for his leadership on this issue and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation in a timely manner.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2747

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Land and Water Conservation Authorization and Funding Act of 2009''.

SEC. 2. PERMANENT AUTHORIZATION; FULL FUNDING.

(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the amendments made by subsection (b) are—

(1) to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund established under section 2 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–5); and

(2) to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations.

(b) AMENDMENTS.—

(1) PERMANENT AUTHORIZATION.—Section 2 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–5) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding subsection (a), by striking ''During the period ending September 30, 2015, there'' and inserting ''There''; and

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking ''through September 30, 2015''.