

National Academy of Sciences under which the National Academy of Sciences shall conduct an assessment of the health impacts of the United States nuclear testing program conducted in the Republic of the Marshall Islands on the residents of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

(b) REPORT.—On completion of the assessment under subsection (a), the National Academy of Sciences shall submit to Congress, the Secretary, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, a report on the results of the assessment.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS,
November 13, 2009.

Hon. JEFF BINGAMAN,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Dirksen Senate Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BINGAMAN: I am writing you on behalf of the Marshallese people to renew our mutual efforts to address the continuing consequences of the U.S. Nuclear Testing Program in the Marshall Islands.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts in introducing the "Republic of the Marshall Islands Supplemental Nuclear Compensation Act of 2007" formerly known as Senate Bill No. 1756. Your understanding and efforts over the past several years to move these difficult issues forward and address them in a substantive and meaningful manner is most appreciated by my Government and the Marshallese people. In this respect, I strongly believe that the substituted version of S. 1756 constituted real and substantive progress in addressing outstanding nuclear related issues.

Understanding that S. 1756 expired without action at the close of 2008, I would respectfully request that legislation again be introduced in the United States Senate to deal with the enduring consequences of the nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands.

My Government submitted a Petition to the United States Congress in respect to Article IX of the Section 177 Agreement concerning "Changed Circumstances" in September, 2000. While my Government believes that we have firmly established that "changed circumstances" exist within the meaning of Article IX, we wish to focus our efforts on coming to a resolution and implementing measures that produce results in addressing the health, safety and damages caused by the nuclear testing program.

Senate Bill No. 1756, in its substituted version, represented the first serious and substantive attempt to deal with the consequences of the nuclear testing program since the Section 177 Agreement went into effect 23 years ago. Therefore, I would like to now discuss some specific measures for inclusion in legislation, which I believe will address outstanding concerns and issues.

1. The provisions contained in Section 4 of the substituted version of S. 1756 that provided the sum of \$4.5 million annually plus adjustment for inflation as a continuing appropriation through FY 2023 to address radiogenic illnesses and the nuclear related health care needs of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, Utrik, Ailuk, Mejit, Likiep, Wotho, and Wotje, is acceptable to my Government. We would, however, request that the legislation include provision for the National Academy of Sciences to conduct an assessment of the health impacts of the nuclear testing program on the residents of the RMI. Inclusion of such an assessment, as

contained in the original S. 1756 will provide important information on these issues to both governments.

2. We support the addition of persons who were citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for inclusion for eligibility in the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000. There are many Marshallese who worked at Department of Energy sites in the RMI in the same manner as their U.S. citizen co-workers, yet have never received the health care and other benefits of this program.

3. We also support provision in the legislation for the proactive and ongoing monitoring of the integrity of the Runit Dome at Enewetak Atoll. This is an issue that has long been of concern to the people of Enewetak who live, fish and harvest food in the immediate area.

4. Any legislation addressing the consequences of the nuclear testing program would not be complete without consideration of the awards made by the Marshall Islands Nuclear Claims Tribunal. Absent from S. 1756 was any reference to the decisions and awards made by the Tribunal. The administrative and adjudicative processes of the Tribunal over the past 20 years are an important mutually agreed to component of the Section 177 Agreement and its implementation to resolve claims for damage to person and property arising as a result of the nuclear testing program. We cannot simply ignore the Tribunal's work and awards that it has made. The RMI has presented a report on this subject prepared by former United States Attorney General Richard Thornburgh in January, 2003, however, issues and concerns apparently continue. We should move forward and resolve any remaining issues and concerns regarding the Tribunal and its work.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to address the issues I have raised in this letter and to move forward on finally addressing the consequences of the nuclear testing program.

Thank you very much for all of your help.

Sincerely,

JURELANG ZEDKAIA,
President.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 388—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING UNFAIR AND DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN IN FAILING TO APPLY THE ECO-FRIENDLY VEHICLE PURCHASE PROGRAM TO VEHICLES MADE BY UNITED STATES AUTOMAKERS

Ms. STABENOW submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 388

Whereas the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Act of 2009 (49 U.S.C. 32901 note) established the CARS Program to jumpstart automobile sales and increase fuel efficiency nationwide by providing incentives to purchase new fuel efficient automobiles;

Whereas on August 25, 2009, a total of 677,842 new vehicles had been purchased through the CARS Program;

Whereas according to the United States Department of Transportation, over 319,000 Japanese made automobiles were purchased through the CARS Program;

Whereas the CARS Program was open to automobiles manufactured in countries

other than the United States, the rebate associated with the current and planned extension of the Eco-Friendly Vehicle Purchase Program in Japan does not apply to automobiles made by United States automobile manufacturers; and

Whereas the Senate finds that by maintaining and extending the Eco-Friendly Vehicle Purchase Program, the Government of Japan is engaging in unfair and discriminatory measures contrary to Japan's obligations under the agreements of the World Trade Organization Agreement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the President should direct the United States Trade Representative to continue to negotiate with the Government of Japan to eliminate the unfair and discriminatory measures relating to Japan's Eco-Friendly Vehicle Purchase Program; and

(2) if the United States Trade Representative is not able to obtain a satisfactory agreement with the Government of Japan, the United States Trade Representative shall initiate consultations under the framework of the World Trade Organization.

SENATE RESOLUTION 389—COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE FOR BEING UNANIMOUSLY DECLARED THE 2009 NCAA FOOTBALL BOWL SUBDIVISION NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

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

S. RES. 389

Whereas on January 7, 2010, The University of Alabama Crimson Tide marched into the historic Rose Bowl and defeated the University of Texas Longhorns 37-21, to win The 2010 Bowl Championship Series (referred to in this preamble as the "BCS") National Championship Game;

Whereas the Crimson Tide earned a berth in the 2010 BCS National Championship Game by defeating the then-unbeaten Florida Gators 32-13 in the 2009 Southeastern Conference Championship Game;

Whereas the Crimson Tide finished the 2009 season with a perfect record of 14 victories and 0 losses;

Whereas the Crimson Tide defeated 3 teams ranked in the Associated Press (referred to in this preamble as the "AP") Postseason Top 10 Poll and 5 teams ranked in the AP Postseason Top 25 poll;

Whereas the Crimson Tide finished the 2009 season ranked first by all 60 AP voters and all 58 USA Today Coaches' Poll voters;

Whereas the first of 5 victories for the Crimson Tide in the Rose Bowl on January 1, 1926, earned the first football national championship for The University of Alabama and served as one of the first great achievements in the storied winning tradition of the Crimson Tide;

Whereas the 2010 BCS National Championship Game victory was the 32nd bowl victory and, a NCAA record, 57th bowl appearance for the Crimson Tide;

Whereas the Crimson Tide previously won a total of 12 National Championships, winning in 1925, 1926, 1930, 1934, 1941, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1973, 1978, 1979, and 1992;

Whereas Head Coach Nick Saban has led the Crimson Tide back atop the elite of College Football while instilling discipline, character, and integrity in the young men he coaches;

Whereas the leadership and devotion of Crimston Tide Athletics Director Mal Moore to The University of Alabama have been crucial for the National Championship teams for which he has played, coached, and served as Athletic Director;

Whereas Javier Arenas, Terrence Cody, Michael Johnson, Mark Ingram, Rolando McClain, Leigh Tiffin, and Mark Barron earned AP All-America honors for their accomplishments during the 2009 season;

Whereas the 2009 Crimston Tide had a record number of 6 AP First Team All-Americans;

Whereas in 2009, running back Mark Ingram, Jr. won the first Heisman Trophy in the long and accomplished history of the Crimston Tide football program;

Whereas in 2009, Rolando McClain was recognized as the top collegiate linebacker in the Nation with the Butkus Award and the Jack Lambert Award, the first to be awarded to a Crimston Tide player;

Whereas Crimston Tide Defensive Coordinator Kirby Smart was honored as the best Assistant Coach in the Nation in 2009, with the prestigious Broyles Award;

Whereas 13 players on the 2009 Crimston Tide roster had earned their degrees from The University of Alabama before the season began;

Whereas President Robert Witt has been instrumental to the remarkable academic and athletic success that The University of Alabama has experienced since his arrival at the Capstone;

Whereas The University of Alabama is devoted to educating young persons and providing them with the tools to excel throughout their lives;

Whereas the excellence on the field of the Crimston Tide brought pride to The University of Alabama, the Crimston Tide faithful, and the whole of the great State of Alabama: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates The University of Alabama Crimston Tide for being unanimously declared the 2009 NCAA Football Bowl Sub-division National Champions;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and staff whose hard work and dedication helped the Crimston Tide win the National Championship; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) President of The University of Alabama, Dr. Robert Witt;

(B) Athletic Director of The University of Alabama, Mal Moore; and

(C) Head Coach of The University of Alabama Crimston Tide, Nick Saban.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3299. Mr. BAUCUS (for Mr. REID) proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 45, increasing the statutory limit on the public debt.

SA 3300. Mr. BAUCUS proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3299 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for Mr. REID) to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 45, *supra*.

SA 3301. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHANNES, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. LEMIEUX, Mr. BURR, Mr. ENZI, Mr. COBURN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNETT, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3299 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for Mr. REID) to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 45, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3299. Mr. BAUCUS (for Mr. REID) proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 45, increasing the statutory limit on the public debt; as follows:

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following: "That subsection (b) of section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking out the dollar limitation contained in such subsection and inserting in lieu thereof \$14,294,000,000,000."

SA 3300. Mr. BAUCUS proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3299 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for Mr. REID) to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 45, increasing the statutory limit on the public debt; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

() (a) LIMITATION ON CHANGES TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, it shall not be in order in the Senate or the House of Representatives to consider any bill or resolution pursuant to any expedited procedure to consider the recommendations of a Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action or other commission that contains recommendations with respect to the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program established under title II of the Social Security Act.

(b) WAIVER.—This section may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by the affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(c) APPEALS.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required in the Senate to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this section.

SA 3301. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JOHANNES, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. LEMIEUX, Mr. BURR, Mr. ENZI, Mr. COBURN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNETT, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3299 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for Mr. REID) to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 45, increasing the statutory limit on the public debt; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ REPEAL OF THE TROUBLED ASSET RELIEF PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the authorities provided under section 101(a) of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (excluding section 101(a)(3)) and under section 102 of such Act shall terminate on the date of enactment of this resolution.

(b) LOWERING OF NATIONAL DEBT LIMIT TO CORRESPOND TO TARP REPAYMENTS.—Section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting after the dollar limitation contained in such subsection the following: ", as such amount is reduced by the amount described under subsection (d)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) The amount described under this subsection is the amount that equals the amount of all assistance received under title I of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 that is repaid on or after the date of enactment of this subsection, along with any dividends, profits, or other funds paid to the Government based on such assistance on

or after the date of enactment of this subsection."

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2010, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the research, development, priorities and imperatives needed to meet the medium and long term challenges associated with climate change.

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 may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150, or by e-mail to rosemarie.calabro@energy.senate.gov

For further information, please contact Jonathan Epstein at (202) 224-3357 or Rosemarie Calabro at (202) 224-5039.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 10 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider the nominations of Larry Persily, to be Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects, and Patricia A. Hoffman, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability).

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 may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150, or by e-mail to amanda.kelly@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler at (202) 224-7571 or Amanda Kelly at (202) 224-6836.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.