

## AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

## COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2010, at 9 a.m.

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

## COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2010, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Prohibiting Certain High-Risk Investment Activities by Banks and Bank Holding Companies."

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

## COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

## COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. HARKIN. 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 February 2, 2010.

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

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2010, at 10 a.m., in room 215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled "The President's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget."

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

## COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2010, at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2010, at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2010, at 3:30 p.m.

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

## COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Hearing on the Nomination of Harold Craig Becker to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board" on February 2, 2010. The hearing will commence at 4 p.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

## COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2010, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Corporate America vs. The Voter: Examining the Supreme Court's Decision to Allow Unlimited Corporate Spending in Elections."

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

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate on February 2, 2010 at 2:30 p.m.

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

## REAFFIRMING THE CENTRALITY OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND PRESS FREEDOM

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 405 submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 405) reaffirming the centrality of freedom of expression and press freedom as cornerstones of United States foreign policy and United States efforts to promote individual rights, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion 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. 405) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

## S. RES. 405

Whereas Google announced on January 12, 2010, the mid-December 2009 discovery that it had been victimized by a highly sophisticated and targeted cyber attack on its corporate infrastructure originating from China that resulted in the theft of its intellectual property;

Whereas Google also announced it had evidence to suggest that a primary goal of the attackers was accessing the Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists, and that the evidence revealed separate attempts to penetrate Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists, journalists, and dissidents in the United States, Europe, and China;

Whereas the targeting of Google is believed to be part of a larger effort to access the computer networks of at least 34 companies, including major financial, defense, media, and technology firms and research institutions in the United States;

Whereas this attack was one in a series of attempts to exploit security flaws and illegally access computer networks of individuals and institutions through the clandestine installation of phishing and malware technology;

Whereas the 2009 "Report to Congress of the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission" stated that "a significant and increasing body of circumstantial and forensic evidence strongly indicates the involvement of Chinese state and state-supported entities" in malicious computer activities against the United States;

Whereas approximately 338,000,000 Internet users in China represent the largest population of Internet users worldwide, and the Government of China employs a sophisticated, multi-layered, and wide-ranging apparatus to curtail Internet freedom, as detailed in the 2009 "Freedom on the Net" report by the Freedom House organization;

Whereas Article 35 of the constitution of the People's Republic of China guarantees freedom of speech, assembly, association, and publication;

Whereas authorities in China employ legal and economic means to coerce Internet service providers, web hosting firms, and mobile phone companies to delete and censor online content and discussions created by Chinese users;

Whereas the Government of China requires domestic Chinese and foreign companies with subsidiaries in China, including Google, to adjust their business practices to allow increased filtering and supervision by the Government of China, restricting content allowed by technology-based products, and censoring data available on search engines;

Whereas, in 2003, the Government of China implemented the Golden Shield Project to control access and information on the Internet on grounds of public safety, including through protocol address blocking, domain name system filtering and redirection, uniform resource locator filtering, packet filtering, connection resets, and other online methods that could amount to censorship of high-value speech;

Whereas the Government of China frequently blocks United States international broadcasting by Radio Free Asia (RFA) and Voice of America (VOA), despite the unimpeded broadcast in the United States of state-run media outlets in China, China Central Television, and China Radio International;

Whereas, as of December 1, 2009, China had imprisoned 24 traditional and online journalists, accounting for nearly 20 percent of all imprisoned journalists worldwide at that time, according to the annual prison census of the Committee to Protect Journalists;

Whereas, following riots in the Xinjiang region of China in July 2009, more than 50 Uighur-language Internet forums were closed and communications were cut in Urumqi, China, and foreign journalists visiting the area were closely monitored by the authorities;

Whereas, during the Summer 2008 Olympics in Beijing, limits were placed on freedom of expression and media coverage, contrary to