

Coast and the fourth largest in the country. The Georgia Department of Economic Development recently announced that Georgia exported more than \$28.7 billion in goods last year, a 20.8 percent increase from 2009 and our imports experienced a 27 percent increase last year compared to 2009. That's well over the overall national increase of 22.6 percent. Exports accounted for more than 54 percent of the 2.8 million containers Georgia Ports moved last year. Savannah handles more than 17 percent of all container cargo on the East Coast and is an essential element for the creation of new jobs, and the preservation of existing jobs, in America. The Panama Canal Authority has undertaken a 7 year \$5.25 billion project to widen the canal to double its capacity by allowing larger ships to transit it. After this expansion, the Panama Canal will be able to handle vessels of cargo capacity up to 13,000 twenty-foot equivalent units or TEUs, which is the measure of cargo capacity often used to describe the capacity of a container ship. As a result of the canal's expansion and widening, shipping vessels are modernizing their fleet and purchasing a much larger class of vessel. These "Post Panamax" and "New Panamax" fleets will be comprised of vessels much larger than anything on the ocean today.

In order to accommodate these vessels, improvements must be made to our Nation's existing infrastructure. The Georgia Ports Authority and the State of Georgia are undertaking a project to deepen the port's channel from 42 feet to 48 feet in order to accommodate this larger class of vessels. Doing so will protect existing jobs at the port while also creating new jobs as these larger vessels call in the Port of Savannah. It is critically important that we expand not only Savannah Harbor but all harbors to ensure they continue to act as gateways for business to not only Georgia and the Southeast United States, but the entire Nation.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING WILBUR'S OF MAINE CHOCOLATE CONFECTIONS

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today millions of Americans across the country will be reminded of the wonders of love and romance. Some may receive a traditional Valentines Day card, others a perfect bouquet of fragrant flowers, and several lucky individuals will receive delectable chocolates, perhaps enclosed in a magnificent red heart shaped box. While today is Valentines Day, the entire month of February is National Chocolate Lover's month, and with these two festive occasions in mind, I rise to commend Wilbur's of Maine Chocolate Confections located in Freeport, ME.

Tom Wilbur and Catherine Carty-Wilbur opened this small chocolatier in

1983, with the goal of providing the highest quality chocolate products to their customers. One of the highlights of Wilbur's is their scrumptious Needham candy, which is a unique delicacy of Maine offering a luxurious blend of chocolate and potato. Wilbur's uses only Maine-farmed potatoes which are among the best in the world in making this delightful treat.

Over the years, the store's charm and rich chocolate selection warranted an expansion and Tom and Catherine sought to move from their original Freeport location to a larger space where they could produce more candy. While garnering funds for expansion, the Wilburs consulted with the Maine Small Business and Technology Development Center regarding a seed grant from the Maine Technology Institute, which they were successfully awarded in 2008. This grant allowed Wilbur's to finish research and development on two pieces of equipment, which were integral in enhancing their company's candy production. Today, this small business has three retail store locations, two in Freeport and one in Brunswick. Inquisitive customers can even tour one of their Freeport locations which doubles as Wilbur's factory!

Wilbur's also understands the importance of giving back to their local community. Recipients of their generous donations include the Central Maine Medical Center as well as Day One in south Portland—a non-profit whose mission is to reduce youth substance abuse. Additionally, to spread the joy of chocolate making, this small business frequently holds events to instruct individuals in this unique craft, including a summer program to turn children into junior chocolatiers. Earlier this month, Wilbur's even held a fun "love bug" event at their Freeport store where individuals could create a special Valentines treat for their loved ones, and demonstrated Needham-making for the Freeport Historical Society.

In light of their delicious product and valued contributions to the State, it is no surprise that this small company has received several accolades. In both 2010 and 2011, they were honored with the Readers' Choice Award for Candy Shops by *Downeast Maine Magazine*. Furthermore, earlier this year Tom and Catherine received the Gowell Award, which is the highest honor bestowed by the New England Retail Confectioner Association and is only given out once every three years—a truly astounding achievement indeed.

Throughout the month of February, but especially today, we celebrate our love of all things chocolate. Wilbur's of Maine Chocolate Confections is a shining example of why everyone's heart truly lights up at the thought of consuming delectable chocolate goods. This company not only produces a superior product, but continually provides valuable contributions as active and engaged members of the community. I am proud to extend my con-

gratulations to everyone at Wilbur's of Maine Chocolate Confections for their dedication to excellence, and offer my best wishes for their continued success.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2105. A bill to enhance the security and resiliency of the cyber and communications infrastructure of the United States.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4960. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indoxacarb; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9336-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 7, 2012; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4961. A communication from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to violations of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Salaries and Expenses account for fiscal years 2010 and 2011; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-4962. A communication from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to violations of the Antideficiency Act that occurred within the Salaries and Expenses account in fiscal year 2010 and in the over two decades prior; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-4963. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an addendum to a certification, transmittal number: DDTC 12-002, of the proposed sale or export of defense articles and/or defense services to a Middle East country regarding any possible affects such a sale might have relating to Israel's Qualitative Military Edge over military threats to Israel; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4964. A communication from the Secretary of the Commission, Division of Clearing and Risk, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Protection of Cleared Swaps Customer Contracts and Collateral; Conforming Amendments to the