

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5998. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Iowa Regulatory Program" (Docket No. IA-016-FOR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5999. A communication from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oklahoma Regulatory Program" (Docket No. OK-033-FOR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-6000. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the authorization of the Minnesota River, Marsh Lake Ecosystem Restoration project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6001. A communication from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Departmental Offices, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Application, Review, and Reporting Process for Waivers for State Innovation" (RIN1505-AC30) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 18, 2012; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-6002. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of the Government of Cuba's compliance with the United States-Cuba September 1994 "Joint Communiqué" and on the treatment of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 "Joint Statement"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-6003. A communication from the Acting Executive Secretary, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 27, 2012; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-87. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging Congress to reconsider the recommendations of the 2012 United States Air Force Structure Change Report and to deliver no fewer than four C-27J aircraft to the 110th Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard as previously committed; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 215

Whereas, The Michigan Air National Guard, being the air force militia of the state, has a long and proud history with the state of Michigan and the city of Battle Creek; and

Whereas, The Battle Creek Air National Guard Base is currently home to the 110th Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard, which currently hosts a flying mission of C-21 passenger aircraft, and the 110th Air Operations Group, which provides critical support to the 17th Air Force, or United States Air Forces Africa; and

Whereas, The units of the 110th Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard have had a history in Battle Creek, Michigan, since 1947; and

Whereas, The 110th Airlift Wing is a tremendous source of civic pride in the greater Battle Creek area, as it has been one of the most decorated Air National Guard units in the nation, receiving the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award in 1992, 1998, 2000, 2004, and 2011, an honor bestowed on fewer than 10 percent of Air Force units annually; and

Whereas, The citizens of Battle Creek have, over the years, committed unmatched support for the Air National Guard in Battle Creek, including in 1984 by a 4 to 1 majority when voters pledged to extend the runway from 7,003 to 10,003 feet to meet the needs of the Air National Guard, in 2006 when the city's economic development authority purchased 74 acres of residentially zoned, vacant property to preclude encroachment, and when Battle Creek proactively contributed resources and sought matching funds for the construction of a new air traffic control tower to address line of sight issues and construct a parallel runway to enhance safety; and

Whereas, The defense industry, including the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, the Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center, and the Fort Custer Army National Guard Base, is integral to the local community, and its components are vital, both as symbols of civic pride and as cornerstones of the local economy; and

Whereas, The defense industry is vital to the economy of the city of Battle Creek, with approximately 3,000 local jobs tied to defense; and

Whereas, The Battle Creek Air National Guard Base contributes \$22.2 million in total wages and salaries and a total of \$26 million in gross regional product to Calhoun County; and

Whereas, More than \$22 million in taxpayer funding has been invested in the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base from 2001 to 2011, \$16.7 million of which represents the federal share and \$5.2 million of which was invested by the state of Michigan. The 110th Airlift Wing has been the recipient of \$477 million in operational funding from 2001 to 2011, including military construction, personnel, and operations and maintenance; and

Whereas, The existing infrastructure and trained personnel at the Battle Creek Air National Guard base are ideally suited to support the C-27J, and the Battle Creek Air National Guard base is second to no other location in the nation for C-27J mission support; and

Whereas, C-27J aircraft based in Southwest Michigan, due to its central location, will provide superior response capabilities in FEMA Region 5 and the region served by the 51st Civil Support Team; and

Whereas, Locating an MQ-1/9 RSO element at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base instead of the previously committed C-27J aircraft would result in a loss of approximately 70 jobs with the 110th Airlift Wing; and

Whereas, Delivering neither the four C-27J aircraft or an MQ-1/9 RSO element to the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base would result in significant harm to the economy of the city of Battle Creek, as well as jeopardizing the significant investments made by the citizens of Michigan and the United States by making the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base vulnerable to future Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) recommendations; and

Whereas, The Battle Creek Air National Guard Base has already been targeted for closure by the BRAC Commission. In 2005, as a result of recommendations by the BRAC

Commission, the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base lost 161 jobs and a squadron of A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft was reassigned to Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The BRAC Commission also considered the closure of the Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center in Battle Creek, which houses integral elements of the Defense Logistics Agency of the United States Department of Defense; and

Whereas, The loss of employment positions with the 110th Airlift Wing at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base would have a significant impact on the local economy; and

Whereas, Any negative impacts on the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base would also have other serious consequences, including potential ramifications for other organizations that utilize W.K. Kellogg Airport, including the Western Michigan University College of Aviation; and

Whereas, The Michigan House of Representatives has already urged the United States Department of Defense to deliver no fewer than four C-27J aircraft to the 110th Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard in Battle Creek; and

Whereas, Any negative impact on the 110th Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base will have immeasurable consequences for the city of Battle Creek and the state of Michigan, both in terms of economic ramifications, as well as in terms of community pride and disaster readiness; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives*, That we urge the Congress of the United States to reconsider the recommendations of the 2012 United States Air Force Structure Change Report and to deliver no fewer than four C-27J aircraft to the 110th Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard as previously committed or, in the event that such aircraft are not currently available, to deliver an MQ-1/9 RSO element to the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base until such time as no fewer than four C-27J aircraft become available, and be it further

*Resolved*, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, United States Secretary of Defense, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-88. A memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Florida urging Congress to repeal the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### SENATE MEMORIAL NO. 1822

Whereas, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act was enacted on July 30, 2002, in Pub. L. No. 107-204, and

Whereas, the stated purpose of the act is "to protect investors by improving the accuracy and reliability of corporate disclosures made pursuant to the securities laws . . .," and

Whereas, this federal legislation was passed with the best of corrective intentions after the discovery of corporate fraud and accounting scandals that cost investors and retirees billions of dollars, and

Whereas, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, in spite of the good intentions that motivated its passage, has created an extremely complex maze of federal regulations that are costly and damaging to public companies and diminish the companies' ability to compete against foreign financial entities that are not subject to its regulations, and

Whereas, the costs that businesses must bear to comply with the extensive provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act are unnecessary and crippling, disproportionately affecting smaller businesses, and

Whereas, financial market scholars have observed that the Sarbanes-Oxley Act has produced the unfortunate consequence of discouraging American businesses from listing with New York stock exchanges and listing instead in England where the markets and stock exchanges are less heavily regulated, and

Whereas, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act is a very costly example of Federal Government intrusion that imposes unnecessary regulatory costs on American businesses and interferes with basic free market principles, and

Whereas, instead of preventing fraud and ensuring transparency, the extensive regulations created by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act have thwarted the creation of new public companies, driven business away from domestic stock markets, and cost the industrial sector billions of dollars: Now therefore, be it

*Resolved, by the Legislature of the State of Florida,* That the Congress of the United States is urged to repeal the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to remove the damaging obstacles that the act has created for American public companies and replace it with reasonable non-intrusive measures to protect investors; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-89. A memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Florida urging Congress to pass H.R. 2918, the Taiwan Policy Act of 2011; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### SENATE MEMORIAL NO. 1486

Whereas, H.R. 2918, the Taiwan Policy Act of 2011, was introduced on September 14, 2011, and is currently pending before the 112th Congress, and

Whereas, H.R. 2918 seeks to encourage and strengthen the commercial, cultural, and other interests between the people of the United States and Taiwan, as set forth in the Taiwan Relations Act which was enacted in 1979 (Public Law 96-8; 22 U.S.C. ss. 3301 et seq.) and which has served for 33 years as the foundation of United States-Taiwan relations, and

Whereas, we are reminded that the Taiwan Relations Act has functioned to ensure peace and stability in the Western Pacific and that it continues to be a priority of the United States to maintain that international stability, and

Whereas, this nation must be vigilant to encourage the secure future of Taiwan and must do all that is within our ability to encourage the military self-defense capabilities of Taiwan, and

Whereas, economically, Taiwan is the ninth largest trading partner with the United States and that trade translated into approximately \$57 billion in 2010, and

Whereas, both nations realize that it is in the best economic interests of the United States and in the national security interests of Taiwan that these two nations continue to cultivate the intricate ties between them: Now therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida,* That the Congress of the United States is urged to pass H.R. 2918, the "Taiwan Policy Act of 2011," in recognition that the passage of the act is a necessary step toward nurturing and maintaining the diverse interests that bind the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan; and be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this memorial be dispatched to the President of the United

States, to the President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.

#### 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. COONS:

S. 2839. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 2-amino-4-methoxy-6-methyl-1,3,5-triazine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COONS:

S. 2840. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 2-methyl-4-methoxy-6-methylamino-1,3,5-triazine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2841. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain PCBTF with antioxidant; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2842. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain PCBTF with acid acceptor; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2843. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain PCBTF; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2844. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain PCBTF with corrosion inhibitor; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2845. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on metal screw type bases designed for high intensity discharge (HID) lamps; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2846. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on preformed iodide pellets or powder composed of iodides of dysprosium, thallium sodium, holmium, thulium and calcium; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2847. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on polycrystalline alumina tubes and shaped bodies designed for high intensity discharge (HID) lamps; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2848. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on cermets for ceramic discharge lamps; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2849. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on frit rings composed of dysprosium oxide, dysprosium monosilicate, and mullite; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2850. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on ceramic bases designed for high intensity discharge (HID) lamps, with metal locking pins to allow passage of an electrical current; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2851. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on polycrystalline alumina discharge tubes prefilled with metal halide salts and designated for high intensity discharge (HID) lamps; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 2852. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain PCBTF with antistatic; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2853. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Iponazole; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2854. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on triacetone; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2855. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Bifenazate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2856. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Butralin; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2857. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Paraquat dichloride (1,1'-dimethyl-4,4'-bipyridinium dichloride); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2858. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on paraquat dichloride and inerts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2859. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Pentaerythritol tetrakis[3-(dodecylthio)propionate] (CAS No. 29598-76-3); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2860. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4,4'-methylene bis(2-chloroaniline); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2861. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,2'-(2-methylpropylidene) bis(4,6-dimethylphenol); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2862. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Daminozide; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2863. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4,4'-butylidenebis[3-methyl 6 tert butylphenol]; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2864. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,2'-methylenebis[4 methyl 6 tert butylphenol]; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2865. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on bis(2,3-dibromopropyl ether) of Tetrabromobisphenol A; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2866. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4,4'-thiobis[2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-5-methyl-phenol]; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2867. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 2,5-bis(1,1-dimethylpropyl)-1,4-benzenediol; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2868. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on Phosphoric acid, tris(2-ethylhexyl) ester; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2869. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on N,NN-Hexane-1,6-diylbis(3-(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionamide) (CAS No. 23128-74-7); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2870. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on 2-(4-Tert-butylphenoxy)cyclohexylprop-2-ynyl sulfite (Propargite) (CAS No. 2312-35-8); to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2871. A bill to extend the temporary suspension of duty on etridiazole; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 2872. A bill to extend the temporary reduction of duty on certain golf bag bodies; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 2873. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 3-trifluoromethyl-4-nitrophenol; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 2874. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on fabrics of man-made fibers consisting of one or two layers of expanded poly-