

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-9. A concurrent resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio urging Congress to maintain operation of the 179th Airlift Wing at Mansfield-Lahm Regional Airport in Mansfield, Ohio; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

Whereas, The United States Air Force 179th Airlift Wing is a military airlift organization assigned to the Ohio Air National Guard and stationed at Mansfield-Lahm Regional Airport; and

Whereas, Due to its superior record, the 179th Airlift Wing received a mission to operate the C-27J Spartan aircraft, a twin turbo-prop aircraft with short takeoff and landing capabilities, ideal for the nation's current military needs and for providing rapid response support for homeland emergencies; and

Whereas, The United States Air Force has published proposed personnel actions associated with plans to retire more than 300 aircraft nationwide, including the C-27J; and

Whereas, The United States Air Force has plans to move personnel positions among states to mitigate the impact of the reductions; and

Whereas, The United States Air National Guard, including the 179th Airlift Wing, is responsible for homeland defense, and the C-27J is an important tool in accomplishing this mission; and

Whereas, The 179th Airlift Wing has made United States Air National Guard history by deploying the C-27J in Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom; and

Whereas, Closing the Air National Guard Station at Mansfield-Lahm, relocating its personnel, and diverting or retiring its C-27J aircraft would create discontinuity and weaken national defense and homeland disaster readiness; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Congress of the United States is urged to maintain operation of the 179th Airlift Wing at Mansfield-Lahm Regional Airport to ensure Ohio and our nation will continue to benefit from the unique experience and capabilities of its personnel and the region; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Representatives transmit duly authenticated copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the President Pro Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, to the members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and to the news media of Ohio.

POM-10. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of New Mexico urging Congress to reauthorize the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, section 5056, and to appropriate sufficient funds to carry out the purposes of the act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 7

Whereas, the Rio Grande basin spans the territory of three states, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas, and twenty-two Native American tribes and pueblos and is one of the most rapidly growing areas in the United States; and

Whereas, the Rio Grande runs the entire length of New Mexico, for more than four hundred fifty river-miles, and major tributaries to the Rio Grande are located in New Mexico, including the Pecos river, the Rio

Chama, the Jemez river and the Rio Puerco, and many other smaller tributaries too numerous to list; and

Whereas, the Rio Grande mainstem and tributaries provide a renewable water supply for irrigation and drinking water and support nationally significant ecosystems for fish and wildlife and renowned tourism destinations; and

Whereas, the water quality of the Rio Grande and the Pecos river and other tributaries is impaired, in part, by high concentrations of dissolved salts and elevated levels of bacteria that can limit available water supply for municipal and agricultural use; and

Whereas, the Rio Grande and Pecos watersheds in New Mexico have the highest total number of New Mexico species of greatest conservation need across all taxa and are predicted to contain some of the greatest diversity of aquatic species of greatest conservation need; and

Whereas, water quality, supply, conveyance and delivery; ecosystem degradation; and flooding are major issues in the Rio Grande basin in New Mexico, and state and local funding to address these issues is inadequate; and

Whereas, while the United States army corps of engineers has nationwide watershed assessment and construction authorities to study problems, recommend solutions and construct projects to restore the health of rivers, all Rio Grande basin projects must compete nationally for these limited federal funds; and

Whereas, the United States congress and president of the United States established a Rio Grande basin-specific funding authority in the Water Resource Development Act of 2007 under Section 5056, called the Rio Grande environmental management program, which authorized federal funding of up to fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) annually for the Rio Grande mainstem and tributaries and directed the secretary of the army to rehabilitate and enhance fish and wildlife habitat in partnership with local sponsors and to implement long-term monitoring, data collection and analysis, applied research and adaptive management; and

Whereas, the Rio Grande environmental management program authority expired in September 2011 before any funds could be appropriated to carry out the program, and congress is considering draft language for the next water resource development act; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of New Mexico that congress be requested to reauthorize Section 5056 of the Water Resource Development Act of 2007 and to appropriate sufficient funds to carry out work related to that legislation; and be it further

Resolved that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the president of the United States, the speaker of the United States house of representatives, the president of the United States senate, the members of the New Mexico congressional delegation, the commanding general of the United States army corps of engineers, the assistant secretary of the army (civil works), the district commander of the United States army corps of engineers, Albuquerque district, and the chair of the president's council on environmental quality.

POM-11. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of New Mexico requesting Congress to continue funding its appropriate share of the costs associated with the benefits received by Indian tribes and the United States, as trustee, from settling Indian water rights disputes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 22

Whereas, the United States government has a trust responsibility to American Indians established through treaties and agreements with Indian tribes and affirmed by the United States supreme court; and

Whereas, Indian tribes gave up lands in return for goods, money and other resources promised by the United States government; and

Whereas, in exchange for taking Indian land and Indian resources, the United States made binding legal agreements that tribes would exercise sovereign authority within their reservation boundaries and be funded in perpetuity by the United States government; and

Whereas, pursuant to the trust responsibility, the United States has a legal obligation to protect Indian tribes' assets and provide needed services to Indian people; and

Whereas, the United States supreme court, in *Winters v. United States*, established that, when the United States government established reservations for Indian tribes, it also, by implication, reserved appurtenant water, then unappropriated, to the extent needed to satisfy both present and future needs of the reservations; and

Whereas, the United States government has supported settlement negotiations that are consistent with its trust responsibilities to Indian tribes in the Aamodt, Taos and Navajo Nation water rights settlements; and

Whereas, the Aamodt, Taos and Navajo Nation water rights settlements contain appropriate funding and cost-sharing by the United States government proportionate to the benefits received by all parties benefiting from the settlements; and

Whereas, continuing to provide adequate funding for pending Indian water rights disputes in the same cost-sharing proportions as past Indian water rights settlements provides certainty for all stakeholders; and

Whereas, the New Mexico legislature created the Indian water rights settlement fund to aid the implementation of the state's portion of Indian water rights settlements based on the cost-sharing proportions of the Aamodt, Taos and Navajo Nation water rights settlements; and

Whereas, the fund is used to pay the state's portion of the cost necessary to implement Indian water rights settlements approved by the legislature and the United States congress; and

Whereas, there are still pending Indian water rights disputes in New Mexico that need to be settled to satisfy both present and future water needs of the Indian tribes, nations and pueblos of New Mexico; and

Whereas, the New Mexico legislature requires continued full funding and cost-sharing by the United States government to reach settlements in the pending Indian water rights disputes in New Mexico; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Legislature of the State of New Mexico that congress be requested to provide full funding to cover the costs associated with the benefits received by Indian tribes and the United States, as trustee, in the same cost-sharing proportions as the Aamodt, Taos and Navajo Nation water rights settlements; and be it further

Resolved that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the speaker of the United States house of representatives, the president pro tempore of the United States senate, the New Mexico congressional delegation, the assistant secretary for Indian affairs of the department of the interior and the state engineer.

POM-12. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of New Mexico requesting reauthorization of the Federal Violence Against Women Act 1994; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 34

Whereas, the federal Violence Against Women Act of 1994 recognizes the insidious and pervasive nature of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking and created comprehensive, effective cost-saving responses to these crimes; and

Whereas, domestic violence and sexual assault affect millions of Americans every year regardless of their age, economic status, race, religion or education; and

Whereas, nearly one in four women is beaten or raped by a partner during adulthood, and each year approximately two million three hundred thousand people are raped or physically assaulted by a current or former intimate partner; and

Whereas, New Mexico law enforcement identified twenty-one thousand three hundred sixty-eight victims of domestic violence in 2011 and six thousand two hundred nineteen children who were present and witnessed domestic violence; and

Whereas, New Mexico receives approximately one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) in funding for domestic violence, teen dating violence, sexual assault and stalking program services through the Violence Against Women Act; and

Whereas, it has been more than two years since the Violence Against Women Act expired; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Mexico that it encourage the New Mexico congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., to immediately vote in favor of reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 in a bipartisan manner to protect all victims of intimate partner violence; and be it further

Resolved that copies of this memorial be transmitted to each member of the New Mexico congressional delegation and to the chief clerks of the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives.

POM-13. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee urging the United States Congress to adopt a balanced budget; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 38

Whereas, with each passing year our nation falls further into debt as federal government expenditures repeatedly exceed available revenue; and

Whereas, the annual federal budget has risen to unprecedented levels, demonstrating an unwillingness or inability of both the Legislative and Executive branches of federal government to control the federal debt; and

Whereas, knowledgeable planning and fiscal prudence require that the budget reflect all federal spending and that the budget be in balance; and

Whereas, fiscal discipline is a powerful means for strengthening our nation; with less of America's future financial resources channeled into servicing the national debt, more of our tax dollars would be available for public endeavors that reflect our national priorities, such as education, health, the security of our nation, and the creation of jobs; and

Whereas, Thomas Jefferson recognized the importance of a balanced budget when he wrote: "The question whether one generation has the right to bind another by the deficit it imposes is a question of such consequence as to place it among the fundamental principles of government. We should consider ourselves unauthorized to saddle posterity with our debts, and morally bound to pay for them ourselves."; and

Whereas, state legislatures overwhelmingly recognize the necessity of maintaining

a balanced budget; whether through constitutional requirement or by statute, forty-nine states require a balanced budget; and

Whereas, the federal government's unlimited ability to borrow involves decisions of such magnitude, with such potentially profound consequences for the nation and its people, today and in the future, that it is of vital importance to the future of the United States of America that a balanced budget be adopted on an annual basis; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the One Hundred Eighth General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, the House of Representatives concurring, that we hereby strongly urge the United States Congress to adopt a balanced federal budget on an annual basis, and be it further

Resolved, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.

POM-14. A resolution adopted by the Municipal Legislature of Toa Alta, Puerto Rico relative to urging the President and the Congress of the United States of America to act on the results from the November 6, 2012 plebiscite by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, which would assure democratic justice for 3.7 million U.S. citizens; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-15. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth requesting the Governor of the North Marianas Islands appoint a special representative for 902 Talks to discuss matters that are currently affecting the relationship between the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

POM-16. A resolution adopted by the Conservation Federation of Missouri relative to appropriating funds for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

POM-17. A resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Monterey, California relative to supporting ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-18. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth requesting the United States Congress to officially acknowledge the Chamorro and Carolinian people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as Native Americans and to include the Chamorro and Carolinian people in definitions set forth under 25 U.S.C. Chapter 14, Subchapter II, Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance, Section 450(b)(e); to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

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. HELLER (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 868. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish a process to determine whether individuals claiming certain service in the Philippines during World War II are eligible for certain benefits despite not being on the Missouri List, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 869. A bill to establish the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 870. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to promote the education of pregnant and parenting students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 871. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance assistance for victims of sexual assault committed by members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. PRYOR):

S. 872. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, to make the shareholder threshold for registration of savings and loan holding companies the same as for bank holding companies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 873. A bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to require States to implement a drug testing program for applicants for and recipients of assistance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. COATS):

S. 874. A bill to prohibit universal service support of commercial mobile service through the Lifeline program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 875. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the reporting of cases of infectious diseases at facilities of the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 876. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend public safety officers' death benefits to fire police officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 877. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to allow public access to research of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 878. A bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 879. A bill to support State and tribal government efforts to promote research and education related to maple syrup production, natural resource sustainability in the maple syrup industry, market production of maple products, and greater access to lands containing maple trees for maple-sugaring activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.