

SENATE RESOLUTION 154—SUP-
PORTING POLITICAL REFORM IN
IRAN AND FOR OTHER PUR-
POSES

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 154

Whereas democracy, human rights, and civil liberties are universal values and fundamental principles of the foreign policy of the United States;

Whereas an essential element of democratic self-government is for leaders to be chosen and regularly held accountable through elections that are organized and conducted in a manner that is free, fair, inclusive, and consistent with international standards;

Whereas governments in which power does not derive from free and fair elections lack democratic legitimacy;

Whereas the Supreme Leader of Iran is unelected, has the power to veto any decision made by the president or parliament of Iran, and controls the foreign and defense policy of Iran;

Whereas the current Supreme Leader of Iran has been in power since 1989 and has never been subject to a popular referendum of any kind;

Whereas elections in Iran are marred by the disqualification of candidates based on their political views, the absence of credible international observers, widespread intimidation and repression of candidates, political parties, and citizens, and systemic electoral fraud and manipulation;

Whereas elections in Iran consistently involve severe restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly, and association, including censorship, surveillance, disruptions in telecommunications, and the absence of a free media;

Whereas the current president of Iran came to office through an election on June 12, 2009, that was widely condemned in Iran and throughout the world as neither free nor fair and provoked large-scale peaceful protests throughout Iran;

Whereas authorities in Iran continue to hold several candidates from the 2009 election in indefinite detention;

Whereas the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran banned more than 2,200 candidates from participating in the March 2, 2012, parliamentary elections and refused to allow domestic or international election observers to oversee those elections;

Whereas the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran seeks to prevent the people of Iran from accessing news and information by disrupting access to the Internet, including blocking e-mail and social networking sites, limiting access to foreign news and websites, and developing a national Internet that will facilitate government censorship of news and information, and by jamming international broadcasts such as the Voice of America Persian News Network and Radio Farda, a Persian language broadcast of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty;

Whereas authorities in Iran have announced that a presidential election will be held on June 14, 2013; and

Whereas the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has banned numerous candidates from participating in the June 14, 2013, presidential election: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recalls Senate Resolution 386, 112th Congress, agreed to March 5, 2012, which called for free and fair elections in Iran;

(2) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to democracy, human rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law, including the universal rights of freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of association;

(3) expresses support for freedom, human rights, civil liberties, and rule of law in Iran, and for elections that are free and fair;

(4) expresses strong support for the people of Iran in their peaceful calls for a representative and responsive democratic government that respects human rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law;

(5) condemns the widespread human rights violations of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran;

(6) calls on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to respect freedom of expression and association in Iran by—

(A) holding elections that are free, fair, and responsive to the people of Iran, including by refraining from disqualifying candidates for political reasons;

(B) making the highest level of executive power in the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran accountable to the people of Iran through free and fair elections;

(C) ending arbitrary detention, torture, and other forms of harassment against media professionals, human rights defenders and activists, and opposition figures, and releasing all individuals detained for exercising universally recognized human rights;

(D) lifting legislative restrictions on freedom of assembly, association, and expression; and

(E) allowing the Internet to remain free and open and allowing domestic and international media to operate freely;

(7) calls on the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to allow international election monitors to be present for the June 14, 2013, election;

(8) notes that the legitimacy of the June 14, 2013, election will be further called into question if—

(A) candidates are disqualified for political reasons;

(B) international election monitors are not present; and

(C) following the election, the highest level of executive power in Iran remains unaccountable to the people of Iran; and

(9) urges the President of the United States, the Secretary of State, and other world leaders—

(A) to express support for the universal rights and freedoms of the people of Iran, including to democratic self-government and fully accountable elected leaders;

(B) to engage with the people of Iran and support their efforts to promote human rights and democratic reform, including supporting civil society organizations that promote democracy and governance;

(C) to support policies and programs that preserve free and open access to the Internet in Iran; and

(D) to condemn elections that are not free and fair and that do not meet international standards.

SENATE RESOLUTION 155—RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA, FOR ITS CRITICAL ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE FLEET OF COMMODORE OLIVER HAZARD PERRY DURING THE WAR OF 1812

Mr. CASEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 155

Whereas the City of Erie, Pennsylvania, due to its abundant resources and strategic positioning, was recommended by shipbuilder Daniel Dobbins to the United States Department of the Navy as an ideal location for the construction of a naval fleet;

Whereas the victory by the United States over Great Britain in the Battle of Lake Erie on September 10, 1813 was a crucial victory for the United States during the War of 1812, and ensured that the United States maintained control over Lake Erie for the duration of the war;

Whereas the success of the fleet of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry in the Battle of Lake Erie helped to facilitate the important victory of General William Henry Harrison at the Battle of the Thames, as well as other military actions of the United States throughout the War of 1812;

Whereas the USS *Lawrence* and the USS *Niagara*, 2 flagships of the fleet of Commodore Perry, were returned to Presque Isle Bay, off the coast of the City of Erie, after completion of their service;

Whereas the City of Erie is home to the USS *Niagara*, which continues to sail in memory of the heroism of the United States forces in the Battle of Lake Erie;

Whereas the City of Erie honors the legacy of Commodore Perry through the Perry Monument at Presque Isle State Park; and

Whereas the City of Erie this year is recognizing the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the City of Erie, Pennsylvania, for its role in the development and construction of the fleet of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry during the War of 1812; and

(2) recognizes the historical significance of the construction of the fleet of Commodore Perry and the consequent victory of the United States in the Battle of Lake Erie.

SENATE RESOLUTION 156—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF NATO ALLIED COMMAND TRANSFORMATION

Mr. WARNER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 156

Whereas, on June 19, 2003, NATO's Allied Command Transformation (ACT), was formally established to increase military effectiveness and prepare the Alliance for future security challenges;

Whereas, on June 19, 2013, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of NATO ACT;

Whereas the security of the United States and its NATO allies have been enhanced by the establishment and continued work of NATO ACT;

Whereas, for the past 10 years, ACT has been leading the charge for NATO military transformation, and providing relevant and timely support to NATO operations, and developing partnerships around the globe to adapt to the changing global security environment;

Whereas ACT is the only NATO headquarters in the United States, and the only permanent NATO headquarters outside of Europe;

Whereas ACT provides state of the art education, training, and application of best practices and lessons learned from past operations, and equips Alliance troops with the tools they need to win today's wars;