

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitats for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many species that are listed as threatened or endangered species;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion prevention, and the protection of coastal communities during hurricanes and storms;

Whereas the United States has lost more than 110,000,000 acres of wetland, or 50 percent of the wetland of the United States, since the first European settlers arrived;

Whereas some bays in the United States that were once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical wastes, harmful algae, and marine debris;

Whereas changes in sea level can affect estuarine water quality and estuarine habitats;

Whereas the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) provides that it is the policy of the United States to preserve, protect, develop, and, if possible, restore or enhance the resources of the coastal zone of the United States, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas 24 coastal and Great Lakes States and territories of the United States operate a National Estuary Program or contain a National Estuarine Research Reserve;

Whereas scientific study leads to better understanding of the benefits of estuaries to human and ecological communities;

Whereas the Federal Government, State, local, and tribal governments, national and community organizations, and individuals work together to effectively manage the estuaries of the United States;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts restore natural infrastructure in local communities in a cost-effective manner, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and

Whereas the week of September 23 through September 29, 2013, has been recognized as "National Estuaries Week" to increase awareness among all people of the United States, including Federal Government and State and local government officials, about the importance of healthy estuaries and the need to protect and restore estuaries: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 23 through September 29, 2013, as "National Estuaries Week";

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Estuaries Week;

(3) acknowledges the importance of estuaries to sustaining employment in the United States and the economic well-being and prosperity of the United States;

(4) recognizes that persistent threats undermine the health of the estuaries of the United States;

(5) applauds the work of national and community organizations and public partners that promote public awareness, understanding, protection, and restoration of estuaries;

(6) reaffirms the support of the Senate for estuaries, including the scientific study, preservation, protection, and restoration of estuaries; and

(7) expresses the intent of the Senate to continue working to understand, protect, and restore the estuaries of the United States.

#### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2013

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 16, 2013; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m., with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees; further, that the filing deadline for first degree amendments to the motions to concur with respect to H.J. Res. 59, the Budget Resolution, and H.R. 3304, National Defense Authorization Act, be 4 p.m. Monday; and finally, at 5:30 p.m., the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 406, the nomination for Anne W. Patterson, as provided under the previous order.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1824

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told that S. 1824 is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1824) to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to exempt certain lead pipes, fittings, fixtures, solder, and flux that contains brass.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to the reading of this bill at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV.

#### PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on Monday there will be a series of rollcall votes starting at 5:30 in the evening. Those votes will be on confirmation of the Patterson nomination to be Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, cloture on the Johnson nomination to be Secretary of Homeland Security, confirmation of the Johnson nomination, and potentially additional procedural votes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:20 p.m., adjourned until Monday, December 16, 2013, at 3 p.m.