United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2014 No. 67

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 6, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

HONORING DR. SAM DAVIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Sam Davis as he celebrates his 30th anniversary as pastor of Beulah Grove Baptist Church in Augusta, Georgia.

Dr. Davis was born in Barnwell, South Carolina, and is a graduate of Voorhees College, Morehouse School of Religion, and the Columbia Theological Seminary. Under Dr. Davis' leadership, Beulah Grove has greatly expanded its reach and increased its rank.

Beulah Grove is 100 years old, and Dr. Davis is only the ninth pastor in the church's history, but he has led that church for almost a third of that century. He has followed in the church's greatest traditions and led it into the 21st century as one of the most visionary communities of faith in the region.

To Dr. Davis, his wife, Beverly, and to the entire Beulah Grove Baptist community, I extend the heartiest of congratulations on this milestone, and I wish you all many, many more.

HONORING HENRY Y. KUHL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the dedicated public service of the Honorable Henry Y. Kuhl, a great patriot, family patriarch, public servant, businessman, and close friend, who for 35 years has served as chairman of the Hunterdon County Republican Committee. Henry will retire from his position this June, leaving a legacy that will stand the test of time in the history of New Jersey.

Henry's love of country, our State, and Hunterdon County has served as the foundation of his beliefs and his devotion to our system of government in the United States, based on faith in God, respect for the individual, self-reliance, free enterprise, and service to the larger community.

Henry's record as Republican county chairman is unparalleled. During his distinguished tenure, he has led an organization that has been overwhelmingly successful in producing winning majorities for Federal, State, county, and municipal candidates.

Henry has also been a delegate to 10 Republican National Conventions, helping shape the direction of our party under the leadership of Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush.

I have known Henry my entire life. He is a respected mentor and ally, and our families' paths have crossed for more than a century. His late father, Paul Kuhl, and my late father, Wesley L. Lance, were lifelong friends.

Henry's devotion to public service has been matched by his devotion to his family, church, community, and business. He and his beloved late wife, Elsa, raised two fine sons, who today are raising, with their spouses, their own families.

A dedicated member of the Flemington Presbyterian Church, Henry has been involved in many charitable endeavors. He is a proud alumnus of Flemington High School and Rider University. His family's business, Kuhl Corporation, is a world leader in manufacturing egg washing and other patented equipment, based on the agricultural heritage of Hunterdon County and of the Kuhl family.

When the Hunterdon County Republican Committee reorganizes following the June primary election, Henry will assume the role of chairman emeritus and continue to advance the causes to which he has dedicated his life.

My wife, Heidi Rohrbach, joins me in thanking the Honorable Henry Y. Kuhl for his service to Hunterdon County and the State of New Jersey. I know that he will be an esteemed leader for many years to come, based on the great tradition of the American people: friend helping friend, neighbor helping neighbor, citizen helping citizen.

SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, this morning, our Nation's leading climate scientists released the country's third National Climate Assessment. The report confirms that climate change is real, is being caused by humans, and is

Printed on recycled paper.

already harming communities across America. The report tells us that the scientific evidence is ''unequivocal.'' The impacts are being felt in every region, and they are growing more urgent. They are going to get worse if we don't act.

A record drought is destroying crops in California, torrential rains have flooded Florida, and wildfires are getting more intense. Coastal areas are being inundated as sea levels rise. No sector of our economy—from oyster hatcheries on the west coast to maple syrup producers in New England—are untouched. Even allergy sufferers are affected, as the pollen season starts earlier and lasts longer.

The National Climate Assessment concludes that unless we act now to cut carbon pollution, these impacts will intensify. No State, no community, and no congressional district will be spared from climate change. We will all be affected.

And so we are at a crossroads. One path is to listen to the scientists. We can protect our environment by curbing carbon pollution from power plants and oil refineries. We can lead the world in developing the clean energy technologies of the future, like solar and wind energy. We can meet our moral obligation to preserve our fragile atmosphere for our children and grandchildren.

The other path is to deny the science and ignore the growing threat of climate change. We can watch our coastlines flood, our forests burn, and our crops wither. We can let the Chinese and other countries dominate the trillion-dollar market for the clean, renewable energy of the future.

It should be an easy choice, but the special interests that profit from fossil fuels are spending hundreds of millions of dollars to obscure the issues. The Koch brothers, the coal companies, and the oil industry have joined forces to stop any action to address climate change in Congress.

Consider this: earlier this year, virtually every Republican Member of the House voted to block EPA regulation of dangerous carbon pollution. They even voted to deny that climate change is occurring.

I am the ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. This committee has jurisdiction over our Nation's energy policy. Over the last 3 years, Representative BOBBY RUSH, the ranking member of the Energy Subcommittee, and I have sent over 30 letters requesting that we hold hearings on climate science so we can make informed decisions. Not even one hearing on the science has been held.

Thankfully, President Obama is not waiting for Congress to act. The President is listening to the scientists. He recognizes the danger of uncontrolled climate change and is using his authority under existing law to cut carbon pollution.

The President is absolutely right to act. His climate action plan is reasonable, it is affordable, and it will protect our atmosphere for our children and future generations. It accelerates a transition to a clean energy economy that will create millions of jobs.

The President has said he is willing to listen to other ideas, but Republicans have offered no alternatives. I have repeatedly asked the House Republicans, If you don't like the President's plan, what is your proposal? But I have never gotten an answer because they don't have one.

Saying ''no'' to every solution is not a plan. Doing nothing is not a plan. Denying the science is not a plan. No one can accept what the scientists are telling us and fail to support a plan of action. If Republicans aren't going to offer solutions, the President must continue to act. He deserves our support.

We still have time to avoid the worst impacts of climate change presented by the National Climate Assessment. But the window is closing fast. We must act now to stop carbon pollution and invest in the clean energy technologies of the future.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

We give You thanks, O God, for giving us another day. Please help us to use it well.

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all to whom the authority of government is given. Help them to meet their responsibilities during these days, to attend to the immediate needs and concerns of the moment, all the while enlightened by the majesty of Your creation and Your eternal spirit.

The season of graduation for millions of American youth is upon us. May our appreciation as a Nation of the value of education among those who are our future be incentive enough to guarantee its importance in our public policy considerations.

May all that is done within the people's House this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

> I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IT'S ABOUT TIME TO GET THE FACTS ON BENGHAZI

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it has been 19 months since terrorists stormed the American consulate in Benghazi. Four Americans were murdered. Today, their killers still roam free somewhere in Libya. Why have none of them been apprehended?

Meanwhile, back in the United States, more questions than answers remain for this administration.

Who is responsible for failing to rescue those victims? Who is responsible for the massive secrecy campaign of hiding what actually happened? Where was the administration during the time of the attack? Why did Ambassador Rice mislead the world on national television as to the facts?

A new email has surfaced from the White House entitled, ''PREP CALL with Susan,'' where the administration created a goal ''to underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video, and not a broader failure of policy.''

Why didn't the administration just tell America the truth about what happened?

I applaud Speaker BOEHNER for establishing a select committee on Benghazi to find out the truth. People in government that concealed and botched the Benghazi murders and the terrorists who killed Americans should be held accountable. Justice requires it—and justice is what we do.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING MYSTIC AQUARIUM

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to announce that this Thursday Mystic Aquarium of Mystic, Connecticut, will be awarded the 2014 Institute for Museum and Library Service's 2014 National Medal. This prestigious award is only given to 10 institutions each year, and it is the highest honor bestowed upon museums and libraries for exceptional service to their communities. The award will be presented by First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the medals program.

Mystic Aquarium is a crown jewel of eastern Connecticut. Founded in 1973, it has more than 4,000 animals and over 300 species, including New England's only beluga whale. It has played an important role for Connecticut residents and visitors alike, with numerous education, research, and cultural exchange programs for students from around the country.

Dr. Stephen Coan, CEO and president of Sea Research Foundation, the parent of Mystic Aquarium, will accept the award on behalf of the aquarium. It has pioneered ocean exploration, including extensive undersea research in the submersible, the Nautilus, skippered by Dr. Robert Ballard, best known for his discovery of the Titanic.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate Mystic Aquarium and Dr. Coan as they receive the 2014 IMLS National Medal. I thank them for their monumental dedication and contribution to the Mystic community.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON BENGHAZI MURDERS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the American people have lost faith in the administration.

When four of America's heroes were brutally murdered at the consulate in Benghazi, Libya, the President promised the families of the fallen that he would bring those responsible to justice and prevent a future attack.

Congress has held countless hearings to conduct oversight responsibilities for the last 19 months. Last week, a secret memo was discovered. Despite subpoenas, unanswered questions remain as to how the administration handled the attack.

We must continue to pursue every avenue to ensure all Americans remain safe from terrorist attacks at home and abroad. Because the administration continues to provide a misleading and duplicitous coverup, we owe it to those who have died for America to develop a select committee to continue the investigation of the Benghazi murders.

I am very grateful House Speaker JOHN BOEHNER picked a proven prosecutor for the job. Congressman TREY GOWDY of South Carolina is most capable of forcing the administration to reveal the truth.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

THE SUN, THE MOON, AND THE TRUTH

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Buddha once said there are three things that cannot be hidden long: the Sun, the Moon, and the truth.

It has been 18 months since the attack in Benghazi, and this piece of proverbial wisdom has again proved prescient.

Evidence is mounting that the Obama administration manipulated the truth of what happened on September 11, 2012, when our Ambassador and three other Americans were killed in what early reports indicated was a planned attack on a U.S. diplomatic facility in Benghazi.

Sadly, repeated attempts by this House to ascertain the truth of what happened have been dismissed by the administration as ''politicizing'' the tragedy. The deep irony is that it was the White House's political maneuvering which led to the truth being buried in the first place.

The emails released last week shed more light on the White House's response to the attacks. More will be learned as the investigation continues.

Coverups, like clouds, are temporary. They can't hold back the light forever. Americans want answers, and they will get them.

HONORING NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

(Mr. FITZPATRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, back in my home community of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Northampton Township Volunteer Fire Company is celebrating 100 years—a century of service—and the community that I represent proudly recognizes the spirit and unflinching courage of its dedicated and skilled volunteers who remain faithful and ready to protect their neighbors year after year.

The fire company continues to serve the Northampton Township community with a staunch group of trained firefighters who consistently demonstrate the highest order of public service, risking their lives as they do to save others. Each of the firefighters and company officers are an integral part of the history of the century-old fire company, and each reflects the true spirit of first responders everywhere.

Throughout its history, the Northampton Township Volunteer Fire Company and its members have set an example of selfless volunteerism and dedication for others to follow. I congratulate them on this landmark anniversary.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 5, 2014 at 5:19 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 436.

Election of the Honorable Andrew B. Willison as Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: Pursuant to section 743(b)(3) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113–76), I am pleased to appoint the following individuals to the National Commission on Hunger:

Dr. Deborah Alice Frank, MD, Brookline, MA.

William Howard Shore, Boston, MA.

Thank you for your attention to these appointments.

Sincerely,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 6, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in clause 2(h) of rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 6, 2014 at 10:22 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4120.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BLACK) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

CAPITAL ACCESS FOR SMALL COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT OF 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3584) to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to authorize privately insured credit unions to become members of a Federal home loan bank, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3584

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act of 2014''.

SEC. 2. PRIVATELY INSURED CREDIT UNIONS AUTHORIZED TO BECOME MEMBERS OF A FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4(a) of the Federal Home Loan Bank Act (12 U.S.C. 1424(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) CERTAIN PRIVATELY INSURED CREDIT UNIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of subparagraph (B), a credit union shall be treated as an insured depository institution for purposes of determining the eligibility of such credit union for membership in a Federal home loan bank under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

''(B) CERTIFICATION BY APPROPRIATE SUPERVISOR.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this paragraph and subject to clause (ii), a credit union which lacks Federal deposit insurance and which has applied for membership in a Federal home loan bank may be treated as meeting all the eligibility requirements for Federal deposit insurance only if the appropriate supervisor of the State in which the credit union is chartered has determined that the credit union meets all the eligibility requirements for Federal deposit insurance as of the date of the application for membership.

''(ii) CERTIFICATION DEEMED VALID.—If, in the case of any credit union to which clause (i) applies, the appropriate supervisor of the State in which such credit union is chartered fails to make a determination pursuant to such clause by the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the application, the credit union shall be deemed to have met the requirements of clause (i).

''(C) SECURITY INTERESTS OF FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK NOT AVOIDABLE.—Notwithstanding any provision of State law authorizing a conservator or liquidating agent of a credit union to repudiate contracts, no such provision shall apply with respect to—

''(i) any extension of credit from any Federal home loan bank to any credit union which is a member of any such bank pursuant to this paragraph; or

''(ii) any security interest in the assets of such credit union securing any such extension of credit.

''(D) PROTECTION FOR CERTAIN FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK ADVANCES.—Notwithstanding any State law to the contrary, if a Bank makes an advance under section 10 to a State-chartered credit union that is not federally insured—

''(i) the Bank's interest in any collateral securing such advance has the same priority and is afforded the same standing and rights that the security interest would have had if the advance had been made to a federally-insured credit union; and

''(ii) the Bank has the same right to access such collateral that the Bank would have had if the advance had been made to a federally-insured credit union.''.

(b) COPIES OF AUDITS OF PRIVATE INSURERS OF CERTAIN DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS REQUIRED TO BE PROVIDED TO SUPERVISORY AGENCIES.—Section 43(a)(2)(A) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831t(a)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by inserting at the end the following new clause:

''(iii) in the case of depository institutions described in subsection (e)(2)(A) the deposits of which are insured by the private insurer which are members of a Federal home loan bank, to the Federal Housing Finance Agency, not later than 7 days after the audit is completed.''.

SEC. 3. GAO REPORT.

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study and submit a report to Congress—

(1) on the adequacy of insurance reserves held by a private deposit insurer that insures deposits in an entity described in section 43(e)(2)(A) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831t(e)(2)(A)); and

(2) for an entity described in paragraph (1) the deposits of which are insured by a private deposit insurer, information on the level of compliance with Federal regulations relating to the disclosure of a lack of Federal deposit insurance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia.

General Leave

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on H.R. 3584, as amended, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) for their efforts in drafting the legislation before us this afternoon.

The Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act is bipartisan legislation that passed the House Financial Services Committee by a vote of 55–0 earlier this spring. This bill will provide meaningful regulatory relief for privately insured credit unions by allowing them to become members of the Federal Home Loan Bank system.

There are approximately 130 privately insured credit unions, with nearly $13 billion in assets in nine States across the country. These credit unions currently cannot join the Federal Home Loan Bank system, which provides an additional source of mortgage funding for its members. Allowing privately insured credit unions to join the Federal Home Loan Bank system will allow these credit unions to increase the availability of mortgage credit in the communities that they serve.

I commend the office for identifying this inequity and putting forth this legislation. This issue is not new. Similar provisions were included in the previous regulatory relief measures that passed the House with overwhelming support.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise to support H.R. 3584, a bill that permits credit unions insured by private companies access to the Federal Home Loan Bank system. Today, there are 132 credit unions with approximately $13 billion in assets that cannot access additional liquidity for mortgage credit but for a statutory obstacle requiring credit unions to have Federal insurance. With membership, privately insured credit unions will be able to offer their members mortgages at more affordable rates and other products, which, in turn, helps many communities across the country.

In the past, some Members raised concerns that the home loan banks should only serve federally insured institutions, but I believe that those concerns have been largely addressed with

the adoption of several helpful amendments both before and during the committee markup of this bill.

Mrs. BEATTY, for example, worked with Mr. STIVERS to address some of the concerns of the Federal credit union regulator. In addition, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) offered two amendments to better protect the Federal Home Loan Bank system against a bank run among privately insured credit unions.

All that being said, these credit unions and their private insurer fared remarkably well during the last financial crisis even as many of their federally insured counterparts failed. As a result, these credit unions helped bolster many communities through the economic downturn.

So I would like to thank the sponsors of this bill, Mr. STIVERS as well as his Democratic cosponsor Mrs. BEATTY, for all of their efforts to work across the aisle to assist community financial institutions and their members.

I support the adoption of H.R. 3584, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I would now like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS), the author of this bill.

Mr. STIVERS. Madam Speaker, I would thank the gentlelady from West Virginia for her support.

I rise in support of H.R. 3584, the Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act. This bill simply makes a statutory change that would allow nonfederally insured credit unions the right to apply for membership with the Federal home loan banks. It does not guarantee that they would receive membership. They would have to go through the membership application like everyone else. Similar legislation passed the House in 2006, with a bipartisan vote of 415 for, none against.

Purchasing a home is part of the American Dream, and this bill will help these small credit unions be able to make more mortgage loans as they use the Federal Home Loan Bank for liquidity and help more people live the American Dream. This bill would help those credit unions be able to have the liquidity that they don't have today.

The Federal Home Loan Bank, which was established in 1932, has been an important part of credit and liquidity for mortgage lending for the past 80 years for most Main Street institutions. Unfortunately, 132 small credit unions don't have that support right now. While most large and small institutions who are members of the Federal Home Loan Bank are able to use it every day for liquidity and to serve their customers, these 132 small credit unions in nine States with assets that total about $11 billion are left out because of a glitch in the law.

There will not be any additional risk to the Federal Home Loan Banks as a result of this. No more than $4 billion would be pledged, probably, as a result of this. So there is no real concentration risk.

I do want to thank Mr. MEEKS from New York for his amendments that helped strengthen the bill. And while these credit unions don't have, I think, much risk to the institution, I think Mr. MEEKS' amendments will ensure that the Federal Home Loan Bank is never put at risk by the authorizing language in this legislation.

You know, credit unions didn't have Federal insurance until the 1970s, and many small credit unions have continued to have private insurance and remain State-regulated. Those are the institutions we are talking about today, and there is precedent for institutions like them to join the Federal Home Loan Bank. So I believe that it is appropriate to allow them to not be discriminated against and allow them to use the Federal Home Loan Bank and ensure that they can serve their customers the same way other Main Street banks and credit unions can.

Again, this bill does not guarantee that any institution will become a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank; it simply gives them the ability to apply.

I want to thank Mrs. BEATTY from Columbus, Ohio, and Ranking Member WATERS for their support in the Financial Services Committee. I want to thank Mrs. CAPITO and Mr. MEEKS for working with me on this bill.

As you heard, this bill passed the Financial Services Committee by a vote of 55–0. I would ask my colleagues to support this legislation and correct an oversight that doesn't allow these institutions to use the Federal Home Loan Bank and doesn't allow many of their customers to live the American Dream. So hopefully we can correct that today by supporting this.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), the coauthor of H.R. 3584.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Ranking Member WATERS for all of her support and her leadership.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3584, the Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act, as amended.

Today I stand here, joining my colleague from Ohio, Congressman STEVE STIVERS, in support of final passage of this bipartisan legislation. I thank the gentleman for introducing this bill on which I partnered as the lead Democrat. In a show of bipartisanship, we were able to work together to have the legislation unanimously reported out of the Financial Services Committee, as it is certainly worth noting again, with a vote of 55–0.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 3584, if enacted, would permit privately insured credit unions to apply for membership in the Federal Home Loan Bank system. It would not, however, mandate that these privately insured credit unions become members of the Federal Home Loan Bank. Currently, out of roughly some 6,000 credit unions across the country, there are 132 privately insured credit unions operated in nine States. These States include Alabama, California, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Nevada, my home State of Ohio, and Texas.

In particular, this bill would improve access to home mortgage loans for members of the three privately insured credit unions that are based in my Third Congressional District of Ohio. H.R. 3584 is an extremely important piece of legislation for these privately insured credit unions because it will help give members and businesses greater access to credit in a tight credit market.

Additionally, this legislation would also benefit the exclusive insurers of privately insured credit unions across the country, which are based in central Ohio, just north of my congressional district, which provide employment for many Ohioans.

□ 1645

In addition, Madam Speaker, in order to ensure the best-drafted bill, Congressman MEEKS and I offered amendments that were accepted during the committee markup.

My amendment does two things. First, it removes any language referencing the National Credit Union Administration from the text of the legislation—clarifying that this legislation would not grant any supervisory jurisdiction to the NCUA over privately insured credit unions.

Secondly, it created a Government Accountability Office study and report to Congress on the adequacy of insurance reserves held by the private insurer of these credit unions and also on the compliance of these credit unions with Federal regulations requiring consumers to receive disclosures explaining that such credit unions are privately—not federally—insured.

These changes were supported by the NCUA and unanimously by the entire Financial Services Committee.

Indeed, H.R. 3584, the Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act, as amended, comes to the floor today because of the efforts of many members of the Financial Services Committee who worked to advance the legislation through regular order of the committee.

I would urge support of H.R. 3584 because this bipartisan legislation is good policy, it is good for small credit unions, and it is an easy and effective way to demonstrate bipartisan, nationwide support for local communities and businesses.

Madam Speaker, I believe this legislation is a perfect example of the type of regular order, committee-driven action that we should use as a template for bipartisan cooperation in the House, and which, if enacted, would bring real benefits to the national housing markets. I urge all of the Members to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 3584, as amended.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, so if the gentlelady would like to close, then I will follow.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I simply ask for support for this important legislation, and I commend both Mr. STIVERS and Mrs. BEATTY for the wonderful job that they did in providing the kind of leadership that brought both sides of the aisle together. I would simply ask for support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. I want to thank both the sponsors, as well, and the committee chair and Ms. WATERS for her work on this bill. I echo her sentiments. I would like to urge support and yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3584, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HELPING EXPAND LENDING PRACTICES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES ACT

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2672) to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for a county to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2672

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act''.

SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF RURAL AREA.

(a) APPLICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall establish an application process under which a person who lives or does business in a State may, with respect to an area identified by the person in such State that has not been designated by the Bureau as a rural area for purposes of a Federal consumer financial law (as defined under section 1002 of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010), apply for such area to be so designated.

(b) EVALUATION CRITERIA.—When evaluating an application submitted under subsection (a), the Bureau shall take into consideration the following factors:

(1) Criteria used by the Director of the Bureau of the Census for classifying geographical areas as rural or urban.

(2) Criteria used by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to designate counties as metropolitan or micropolitan or neither.

(3) Criteria used by the Secretary of Agriculture to determine property eligibility for rural development programs.

(4) The Department of Agriculture rural-urban commuting area codes.

(5) A written opinion provided by the State's bank supervisor, as defined under section 3(r) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(r)).

(6) Population density.

(c) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after receiving an application submitted under subsection (a), the Bureau shall—

(A) publish such application in the Federal Register; and

(B) make such application available for public comment for not fewer than 90 days.

(2) LIMITATION ON ADDITIONAL APPLICATIONS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Bureau, during the public comment period with respect to an application submitted under subsection (a), to accept an additional application with respect to the area that is the subject of the initial application.

(d) DECISION ON DESIGNATION.—Not later than 90 days after the end of the public comment period under subsection (c)(1) for an application, the Bureau shall—

(1) grant or deny such application, in whole or in part; and

(2) publish such grant or denial in the Federal Register, along with an explanation of what factors the Bureau relied on in making such determination.

(e) SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS.—A decision by the Bureau under subsection (d) to deny an application for an area to be designated as a rural area shall not preclude the Bureau from accepting a subsequent application submitted under subsection (a) for such area to be so designated, so long as such subsequent application is made after the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date that the Bureau denies the application under subsection (d).

(f) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to have any force or effect after the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials for the RECORD on H.R. 2672, as amended, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, the legislation before us this afternoon makes an important improvement to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's qualified mortgage rule that went into effect this past January. Under the Bureau's proposed rule, a community bank or credit union operating in a rural community would be afforded some flexibility to underwrite mortgages that otherwise would not be deemed a qualified mortgage. These products, sometimes referred to as balloon loans, are a critical source of mortgage credit in rural and agricultural communities. Although the Bureau has recognized the importance of this type of credit in rural communities, the definition that they used for a rural community will result in fewer mortgage options for consumers in rural communities.

The Bureau relied on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Urban Influence Codes to define a rural community. Under this definition, half of the counties in the State of West Virginia are considered urban. Well, I think those of us who have driven through West Virginia would find that hard to believe. According to the Bureau, Clay County, West Virginia, which has a population density of 30 people per square mile, is urban. Similarly, neighboring Calhoun County, which has a population density of 27 people per square mile, is also deemed urban by the Bureau. These examples demonstrate a complete lack of understanding of rural America.

Mr. BARR's legislation sets up a process by which a community can petition the Bureau to be reclassified as rural. This commonsense approach strikes an appropriate balance that will allow consumers in rural areas to continue to have access to mortgage credit. I commend Mr. BARR of Kentucky for authoring this legislation and deftly navigating it through the House Financial Services Committee, where it passed 55–1.

I urge my colleagues to support this critical piece of legislation. Obviously, it will have a great impact on rural America, which is where I live and where many of us do, too. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker and Members, I rise in support of H.R. 2672, the CFPB Rural Designation Petition and Correction Act. I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) for working with the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) to introduce this bipartisan legislation.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has recognized the challenges rural communities with limited access to banking services face and are appropriately reconsidering how to designate rural counties.

However, some large counties can have both large urban centers and rolling farmland within their borders, preventing them from being considered rural. This measure would direct the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to establish an application process so that a lender who lives or does business in a county that does not meet the rural definition can still apply to serve

as a rural lender under the CFPB's qualified mortgage rule.

While balloon payments were a feature of many of the risky and predatory loans that ended in financial disaster for American families, there are some specific places and times when they may make sense, especially in rural communities.

I am pleased that this legislation is narrowly tailored to ensure the kinds of institutions that would be allowed to make these loans are truly community banks—small institutions that play an active role in their communities, with personal knowledge of their customers and their needs.

As we have learned from flood insurance reform, applying map-based standards uniformly across the diverse geography of the U.S. is incredibly challenging. This legislation would ensure that in areas that may not fit the standard, but where common sense shows them to be rural, the local community would have input into the process.

I also want to acknowledge the CFPB for acting very quickly in the face of the feedback it received on the rural definition it initially proposed, making certain that credit continued to flow to borrowers by offering a 2-year waiver for all small creditors during the process of re-proposing its rural definition.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I now would like to yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky, Congressman BARR, the author and sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Financial Institutions Subcommittee for her leadership on this important legislation. I want to thank also my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have joined us in a bipartisan way to advance this sensible legislative correction.

Madam Speaker, obviously, government bureaucrats don't always know best, and they certainly don't know our local communities better than we do. That is why I introduced H.R. 2672, the Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act, or HELP Rural Communities Act, which would help remedy a bizarre situation created by a flawed, one-size-fits-all government regulation that is making life harder for millions of Americans, including my constituents in central and eastern Kentucky.

My legislation, the HELP Rural Communities Act, is about making the Federal Government more responsive to the people who know their communities better than regulators in Washington, D.C. It is a simple, pragmatic, and bipartisan solution that says that if Federal bureaucrats are going to impose different rules based on the localized characteristics of an area, then they actually need to listen to the input of the people in the communities who know those characteristics of those communities.

A few weeks ago, I was visiting with constituents in a rural county in my district, Bath County, in a country general store. And when I was sitting there talking to my constituents, a horse-drawn buggy passed by. Now, this is far from an uncommon occurrence. This was just another reminder that Bath County, Kentucky, in my district, is very much a rural area.

Amazingly, however, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in Washington does not recognize Bath County as rural. Instead, the bureaucrats at the CFPB improperly designated Bath County as nonrural. Now, there are plenty of similar examples throughout the country of the CFPB oddly and incorrectly designating undeniably rural areas as nonrural, which is why H.R. 2672, the HELP Rural Communities Act, enjoys broad, bipartisan support and passed out of the Financial Services Committee by a vote of 55–1.

You may be wondering why this rural versus nonrural distinction matters. Well, here is why: the CFPB imposes more stringent lending rules and restrictions on local financial institutions based in nonrural communities than it does on financial institutions in rural communities. So when the Bureau gets these rural designations wrong all throughout the country, the consequence is that it constrains the availability of credit, including for balloon loans, to rural customers of community banks and community credit unions.

But don't just take it from me. Charles Vice, who is the top banking regulator in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Financial Institutions and the chairman of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, has emphasized the importance of preserving balloon loans in rural communities.

In his testimony before our committee, the Financial Services Committee, in the House in June, Commissioner Vice stated:

> When used responsibly, balloon loans are a useful source of credit for borrowers in all areas. Properly underwritten balloon loans are tailored to the needs and circumstances of the borrower, including situations where the borrower or property is otherwise ineligible for standard mortgage products.

So the need for this legislation has been made clear by the regulators themselves. But it has also been made clear to me by a community banker in Bath County, a community banker who has been part of his local institution for multiple generations. His father was the president of the community bank, his grandfather was the president of the community bank and, before that, his great-grandfather. This young man, Thomas Richards, testified before our committee in December.

He said:

> Unnecessary restrictions on balloon loans will lead to some qualified borrowers not receiving the credit that they deserve, and from a small community's standpoint, these restrictions would be devastating to the livelihood of that area.

It was really interesting to hear Mr. Richards testify because he said that his small, little community bank in Bath County, Kentucky, had survived the great economic changes over the centuries. It had survived the Great Depression, it survived the stagflation of the late 1970s and the early 1980s, and it even survived the financial crisis in 2008. But he said that the greatest single threat facing his small, community bank in rural Bath County, Kentucky, was the avalanche of red tape coming out of Washington in 2013 and 2014.

□ 1700

If left unfixed, these rules will block customers in rural communities from obtaining responsibly underwritten balloon loans. These are loans which Kentucky bankers throughout my district commonly use to provide credit to local customers who may not fit perfectly into Washington-dictated lending straitjackets.

These loans are vital to all kinds of individuals in rural America, from businessowners on Main Street, who simply seek to preserve their business, to farmers preparing for the next planting season.

A balloon loan can be the lifeline that finally helps a young family purchase a home; or it can help an individual repair their car, so they can get to work each day. At its core, balloon loans are common throughout rural America because they offer consumers flexibility and help community banks and community credit unions mitigate interest rate risk.

As you can see, these loans are tailored to the credit needs of the customer, which is why they are so popular throughout Kentucky. The tradition of community backing in Kentucky has always been about relationship banking. It is about truly knowing your customer and having that development of trust, so that the banker knows whether or not the customer can repay that loan.

H.R. 2672 is necessary because it preserves the best traditions of rural community banking, which are now being jeopardized by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's incorrect rural designations throughout the country.

Really quickly, what does the bill exactly do? This bill creates a petition process in which individuals within a State could petition the Bureau to have it reconsider an improper designation of nonrural status for an area that is plainly rural.

Instead of limiting applicants to only being able to challenge a designation based on county lines, H.R. 2672 would give the applicant the flexibility to define the specified and bounded area that they would like to see switched from nonrural to rural.

In other words, we don't want to lock people into using counties when they

don't have to. This is important because county sizes can vary significantly throughout the country, particularly in Western States, and I want to thank my colleague and friend on the other side of the aisle, Congressman HINOJOSA, for his contribution to this feature of the legislation.

The legislation specifies a number of commonsense factors that CFPB must consider when evaluating an application. In addition to the local input of the applicant, these factors include population density; a written opinion provide by the State's bank supervisor; and criteria used by the Census, OMB, and the Department of Agriculture for properly classifying geographic areas as either rural or urban.

Upon receiving an application, the CFPB is to provide for a 90-day public comment period and then grant or deny such applications within an additional 90 days. The Bureau shall then publish in the Federal Register an explanation of the factors it relied on in making its ultimate determination.

Once again, I am pleased that this is a bipartisan bill. I want to thank especially Congressman HINOJOSA for his input in helping to improve this legislation. I also want to thank all of the other cosponsors of the bill, which is endorsed by a broad coalition, including the Kentucky Bankers Association, the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, the Kentucky Credit Union League, the Credit Union National Association, the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, the American Bankers Association, the Independent Community Bankers of America, the National Association of Realtors, and the chairman of the Kentucky Department of Financial Institutions—again, the top banking regulator in Kentucky, Commissioner Charles Vice.

This is a commonsense and simple bill, and I appreciate the opportunity to present it here today. I urge my colleagues to support this simple reform piece of legislation, and I urge the support and immediate passage of this legislation.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), a cosponsor of H.R. 2672.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 2672, the Helping Expand Lending Practices in Rural Communities Act, as amended. I would like to thank my distinguished colleague, Congressman BARR of Kentucky, for your leadership on this bill.

As the chairman of the Congressional Rural Housing Caucus, I have dealt with the varying definitions of rural for many years. Given that the definitions promulgated by the USDA are problematic on many counts, I was very concerned when I learned that the CFPB originally used them as a guide for their rule.

The original rule by the CFPB would exclude Hidalgo County in my 15th Congressional District in deep south Texas. Hidalgo County includes some urban areas, but much of it is also rural.

It is home to the most colonias in the Nation. Colonias often lack basic infrastructure, such as indoor plumbing and electricity. They are rural by definition. We need to ensure that community banks and credit unions are not prevented from investing in such rural communities.

The CFPB's new mortgage rules discourage risky mortgage lending practices that sparked the financial crisis. However, community banks and credit unions did not cause the crisis and have legitimate reasons for flexibility when it comes to serving rural America.

Rural community bankers know their customers by name; often, they are the only option for credit within hundreds of miles. They understand the unique financial needs of their community and how best to serve the farmers, to serve the ranchers and small businesses that rely on them.

I appreciate that the CFPB has heard our concerns and has responded by offering a short exemption. I believe the petition process enacted by this legislation will only strengthen the CFPB's final rule.

This is an important opportunity given that rural is not easily defined and looks different by region. It makes good sense for the CFPB to follow the USDA's lead and for communities to be able to petition their rural status.

I thank Congressman BARR for his outstanding work on this bill and for including the changes that I proposed. Defining rural on a county-level basis is too arbitrary, given the large size of counties in Texas and other Western States. I do not believe the bill undermines the CFPB's commitment to consumer protection, and I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 2672.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time to close.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I would simply like to ask all of my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I would like to commend Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. BARR, and I would also like to commend Mrs. CAPITO and all who have worked so well together to ensure that we pay attention to the problems of rural communities, and this bill certainly does that.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I echo the comments of the ranking member, and I thank her for her help on this bill. I thank Mr. HINOJOSA and Mr. BARR for their good, hard work.

As I said earlier in my opening statement, rural America does have a different way of trying to access credit and to make sure that homeownership becomes the reality that many of us hope for our families. I would like to congratulate the sponsors, and I urge passage of the bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2672, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for an area to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes.".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MONEY REMITTANCES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2014

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4386) to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to rely on State examinations for certain financial institutions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4386

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Money Remittances Improvement Act of 2014".

SEC. 2. COMPLIANCE AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) COMPLIANCE WITH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ON MONETARY INSTRUMENT TRANSACTIONS.—Section 5318(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (6) as paragraph (7); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

"(6) rely on examinations conducted by a State supervisory agency of a category of financial institution, if the Secretary determines that—

"(A) the category of financial institution is required to comply with this subchapter and regulations prescribed under this subchapter; or

"(B) the State supervisory agency examines the category of financial institution for compliance with this subchapter and regulations prescribed under this subchapter; and".

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—Section 128 of Public Law 91–508 (12 U.S.C. 1958) is amended—

(1) by striking "this title" and inserting "this chapter and section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1829b)"; and

(2) by inserting at the end the following: "The Secretary may rely on examinations conducted by a State supervisory agency of a category of financial institution, if the Secretary determines that the category of financial institution is required to comply with this chapter and section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (and regulations prescribed under this chapter and section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act), or the State supervisory agency examines the category of financial institution for compliance

with this chapter and section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (and regulations prescribed under this chapter and section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act).''.

(c) CONSULTATION WITH STATE AGENCIES.—In issuing rules to carry out section 5318(a)(6) of title 31, United States Code, and section 128 of Public Law 91–508 (12 U.S.C. 1958), the Secretary of the Treasury shall consult with State supervisory agencies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to submit extraneous material on H.R. 4386, the bill currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank Mr. ELLISON and Mr. PAULSEN from the Financial Services Committee for drafting the legislation before us today. I know that many of their constituents rely on money transfer services—as many do across this country—to remit money to family members living abroad.

One of the current challenges facing the money service business and the regulatory agencies that enforce the law is a lack of information-sharing between the State and Federal entities. The end result is these entities are examined for compliance both at the State and Federal level.

H.R. 4386 seeks to reduce the compliance burden for these businesses by allowing for greater information sharing between State and Federal agencies. This legislation will make it easier for consumers seeking money transfers to access these services.

I commend the authors of this legislation for identifying the duplication between State and Federal compliance and putting forth a proposal to streamline the regulatory framework for these businesses.

Consumers will have greater access to the financial services they need and want, while at the same time making it easier for these businesses—and the financial institutions they partner with—to make sure they are in compliance with the law. I urge adoption of this bipartisan legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4386, the Money Remittances Improvement Act, offered by the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), a member of the House Financial Services Committee and a cochair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

Representative ELLISON has worked diligently to get this important bill to the floor for some time, and I thank him for that. I am also grateful to Financial Services Committee Chairman JEB HENSARLING for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor today.

H.R. 4386 is a commonsense measure that will strengthen Bank Secrecy Act examinations of the nonbank financial institutions that lack a Federal regulator by permitting the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, known as FinCEN, to rely on examinations already conducted by State supervisory agencies where they meet Federal standards.

This straightforward change will make better use of limited State and Federal resources and will ensure that the wide range of nonbank financial institutions, currently subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service as delegated by FinCEN, will be subject to more consistent and effective oversight.

In addition to furthering our national security interests, the enhanced regulatory coordination and robust oversight of nonbank antimoney-laundering compliance provided for in this bill will make it easier for lawful and well-regulated nonbank institutions, such as money service businesses, to provide remittances and other essential financial services.

Access to remittances is particularly important in States like Minnesota, Ohio, Washington, and California, which are home to diaspora communities from the east African nations of Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Sudan, Somalia, and elsewhere.

For family members living in fragile states, remittances sent from the United States often provide an essential lifeline during difficult periods of drought famine, conflict, and economic disruption.

In an environment where banks and credit unions are understandably eager to reduce risks of all kinds, this is exactly the type of legislation we need. By strengthening oversight of nonbank money transmitters and other nonbank actors, this bill will help increase the confidence banks and credit unions rely on in determining whether to provide the account services that nonbank institutions need to stay in business.

□ 1715

It will also do so without diluting the important risk-based due diligence requirement banks and credit unions are subject to under the Bank Secrecy Act.

Appropriately, current law requires that banks and credit unions take steps to ensure that their nonbank customers meet core Bank Secrecy Act compliance obligations, including recordkeeping and reporting requirements, ongoing monitoring for suspicious activity, and training for employees to ensure they are familiar with their obligations under the law.

While banks, credit unions, and their executives must be expected to meet obligations under the law, we must also do more to provide them with the tools necessary to access compliance risk, distinguish between good and bad actors. To strengthen our national security, promote a more sound financial system, save taxpayers money, and provide fairness and relief to immigrant communities across this Nation and their families around the globe, I urge all Members of the House to vote in favor of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I would like to reserve the balance of my time. I have no further speakers.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I would like to start out by thanking Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS. I would also like to thank the people who I have worked closely with on the bill, including my own staff, who did a fine job, but also Congressman PAULSEN, who has been my friend of many years; Congressman DUFFY, who is away tending to family affairs with a newborn baby; and also Congressman HINOJOSA and many others.

The fact is that this is a commonsense good piece of legislation. It is the kind of thing that it would be great if we worked on more of. Both Federal and State regulators have a responsibility to provide oversight over nonbank financial institutions like money services businesses, jewelry merchants, and mortgage brokers. However, Federal regulators have not been able to rely on the information that comes from the State exams for their oversight purposes. This bill changes that. In so doing, it reduces duplicative exams and increases efficiency.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this bill because it reduces duplication in exams between State agencies and the IRS and makes the system more efficient. One reason I introduced the bill is because I want to see more money service businesses have access to bank accounts. Financial institutions will feel more assured in providing bank accounts because more nonbank financial institutions will now be formally examined.

Groups ranging from Oxfam America to Dahabshiil agree. New Americans know that their ability to send money back to their families in Somalia and elsewhere is literally a matter of life and death. For many Americans, remittances are a lifeline, providing food, shelter, education, and economic development.

This bill is an example of how robust oversight can reduce risk, resulting in greater beneficial activity. This bill received a great deal of support from a wide range of supporters.

Again, I would like to thank my cosponsors for the bill. I would also like to thank the Senate leads on the bill, Senators KIRK and KLOBUCHAR, and finally, again, Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS for prioritizing the need to improve regulatory oversight, which also meet humanitarian needs.

I urge my colleagues to support the Money Remittances Improvement Act, H.R. 4386.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close if the gentlewoman from California is also prepared.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I would like to thank all of those who have worked on this legislation.

This is a fine example of how you take a rather difficult and complicated problem and work through ways by which you can ensure security and that lawful actions are continued in order to make sure that the banking laws are being recognized and being honored and still do something for those people who are dependent on these remittances.

I yield back the balance of my time and ask all of my colleagues for their support on this bill.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the sponsors of the bill. We have done a great job of working together as two State colleagues. I urge support of this bill as well.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUFFY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in favor of H.R. 4386, the Money Remittance Improvement Act.

I want to thank my colleague Rep. ELLISON for his hard work and leadership on this important issue.

Madam Speaker, I proudly come from a family of 13—10 brothers and sisters—and my wife Rachel comes from a family of six. Both of our families are spread across the United States and at times are spread across the world. It has always been a comfort to know that we can rely on each other in good and hard financial times, and that's a value Rachel and I hope to pass on to our six—soon to be seven—children.

Sadly, duplicative requirements under current law for money service businesses make it difficult to wire money outside the United States to certain countries. Congress enacted laws to restrict money being sent internationally for illegal or fraudulent activity, but they never required the Federal government to coordinate many of those protections with State financial regulators. In fact, current law actually restricts these parties from sharing much of that information.

Not only does this create inefficiencies, but it creates confusion as well. And this confusion often prevents the hardworking Hmong in my district from sending money to their loved ones, cutting off financial support. That is why they are supporting H.R. 4386, and I submit their letter of support.

Madam Speaker, by requiring the Federal government to better communicate with State financial regulators of Wisconsin and the United States, as H.R. 4386 does, families spread across the world will enjoy the same peace of mind that Rachel and I do.

This is a common sense piece of legislation that will not only protect everyone from unscrupulous financial activity but also improve the lives of all hardworking families throughout the world.

I urge all Members to support H.R. 4386.

WAUSAU AREA HMONG
MUTUAL ASSOCIATION,
Wausau, Wisconsin, May 6, 2014.

Hon. Rep. SEAN DUFFY,
7th Congressional District of Wisconsin, Washington, DC.

DEAR REP. DUFFY: Thank you for your hard work and for being a cosponsor of the proposed legislation ''The Money Remittances Improvement Act of 2013, H.R. 1694/S. 1840.'' This proposed bill is what many Hmong families in Central Wisconsin need to help their families and relatives in Laos.

As you are aware, Central Wisconsin is home to nearly 7,000 Hmong American residents, making the area the second largest Hmong community in the state. Wisconsin has the third largest Hmong population in the nation following California and Minnesota. Most Hmong American families in the U.S. still have close family members or relatives whom they left behind in Laos. These Hmong families are living in very poor conditions with no support from their government and are dependent on their families in the U.S. for financial assistance.

Each year, hundreds of Hmong individuals and families in Central Wisconsin would send monies to help their poor relatives in Laos. The Money Remittances Improvement Act, no doubt, would make it easier for Hmong Americans to send financial support to help their poverty stricken family members and relatives.

We support The Money Remittances Improvement Act and urge the House of Representatives to pass this bill as soon as possible. We thank you for your diligent work on behalf of the citizens of Central and Northern Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

PETER YANG,
Executive Director, Wausau Area Hmong Mutual Association, Inc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4386.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSE FIND LOIS LERNER IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS

Mr. ISSA, from the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, submitted a privileged supplemental report (Rept. No. 113–415, Part II) on the resolution recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, Former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena duly issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND FOSTERING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3329) to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3329

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CHANGES REQUIRED TO SMALL BANK HOLDING COMPANY POLICY STATEMENT ON ASSESSMENT OF FINANCIAL AND MANAGERIAL FACTORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Before the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall publish in the Federal Register proposed revisions to the Small Bank Holding Company Policy Statement on Assessment of Financial and Managerial Factors (12 C.F.R. part 225–appendix C) that provide that the policy shall apply to bank holding companies and savings and loan holding companies which have pro forma consolidated assets of less than $1,000,000,000 and that—

(1) are not engaged in any nonbanking activities involving significant leverage; and

(2) do not have a significant amount of outstanding debt that is held by the general public.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 171(b)(5)(C) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5371(b)(5)(C)) is amended by inserting ''or small savings and loan holding company'' after ''any small bank holding company''.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may be construed as limiting the authority of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to exclude a bank holding company or a savings and loan holding company from the policy statement described under subsection (a), if such action is warranted for supervisory purposes.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) BANK HOLDING COMPANY.—The term ''bank holding company'' has the meaning given that term under section 2 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841).

(2) SAVINGS AND LOAN HOLDING COMPANY.—The term ''savings and loan holding company'' has the meaning given that term under section 10(a) of the Home Owners' Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a(a)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MURPHY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and then submit extraneous materials for the record on H.R. 3329, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. MURPHY of Florida for drafting the legislation before us this afternoon and for working together on the Financial Services Committee.

H.R. 3329 provides targeted regulatory relief for small bank holding companies. Under the current regulatory framework, the Federal Reserve's rules sometimes make it difficult for small banks to make acquisitions. This is because the acquiring institution often uses debt financing to make the acquisition.

Recognizing that many small institutions rely on debt financing for an institution, the Federal Reserve requires policy statements to ensure the debt is managed properly and subsidiary banks are well capitalized. The legislation before us today makes it easier to form new holding companies, fund existing holding companies and make acquisitions by issuing debt at the holding company level by raising the threshold from $500 million in consolidated assets to $1 billion in consolidated assets.

I commend the authors of this bill for their hard work on this bipartisan legislation which passed the committee by voice vote last November. This is about creating jobs, getting credit across the country for consumers and for small business owners.

I urge adoption of the bill and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I want to thank the gentlewoman from California for her leadership on this and countless issues that come before our committee.

I also want to thank the gentlewoman from West Virginia, the chair of Financial Institutions, for her constant willingness to come to the center and work for the greater good of our country.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. LUETKEMEYER) for his outstanding leadership working for true regulatory relief to create jobs while protecting consumers. This is not the first bill that we have worked on together, and I hope it is not the last.

Across the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches, the constituents that I am privileged to represent know that small businesses are the backbone of our economy. They understand that capital is the lifeblood that enables those businesses to grow, spurring innovation and creating jobs.

Community banks are on the front lines providing that capital, but they are being strangled by well-intentioned but excessive regulation. Let me be clear: I am not against reining in the excesses of Wall Street banks.

After the financial crisis nearly took down the economy and cost Americans $17 trillion worth of wealth and equity, the country's biggest banks should be held to a higher standard. It doesn't take a CPA to see the difference between a $2 trillion interconnected, globalized Wall Street bank and the 550 community banks on the town square under $1 billion in assets that do not yet get the regulatory relief provided by the Fed policy statement. We are here today to change that.

This bill would provide much-needed regulatory relief to community banks. Everyone says they are for community banks. Today is the day to prove it.

Madam Speaker, I include a letter of support from the Independent Community Bankers of America into the RECORD.

INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY BANKERS OF AMERICA®,
Washington, DC., May 5, 2014.

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the more than 6,500 community banks represented by the Independent Community Bankers of America, I write to express our strong support for H.R. 3329, which is scheduled for floor consideration this week. Introduced by Reps. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R–MO), Patrick Murphy (D–FL), Tom Cotton (R–AR), Mike Quigley (D–IL), and Ann Kuster (D–NH), H.R. 3329 is bipartisan legislation that would direct the Federal Reserve to increase the qualifying asset threshold of the Small Bank Holding Company Policy Statement from $500 million to $1 billion and allow small savings and loan holding companies to be covered by its provisions. This legislation is a key priority for ICBA and a provision of our Plan for Prosperity: A Regulatory Relief Agenda to Empower Local Communities. ICBA urges all members of the House to vote YES on H.R. 3329.

Revising the Policy Statement will make it easier for small bank and savings and loan holding companies to raise both debt and equity and downstream the proceeds to their subsidiary banks. The Policy Statement contains a number of safeguards to ensure that the debt is managed responsibly and subsidiary banks remain well capitalized. Increasing the eligibility threshold to $1 billion to account for inflation, industry consolidation, and asset growth will help an additional 515 bank and savings and loan holding companies raise capital for additional consumer and small business lending, leading to job creation and community development.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CAMDEN R. FINE,
President & CEO.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, with that, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the Luetkemeyer-Murphy bill, and with no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Mr. LUETKEMEYER be permitted to control the remaining balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank both Chairman HENSARLING and Ranking Member WATERS for their support of my bill as well as the hard work of Chairman Congresswoman CAPITO here for her help and support today, as well as Congressman MURPHY for his sponsorship as well.

At a time when regulators are requiring more and more from small and community-based institutions, I appreciate the opportunity to work across party lines to offer some commonsense relief.

Small bank and thrift holding companies face unique challenges with regards to capital formation, which is a particular concern at a time when regulators are demanding higher capital levels in response to Basel III. Understanding these challenges, the Federal Reserve has recognized that small bank holding companies have limited access to financing and, as a result, face difficulties in the acquisition of small banks by small holding companies, which often requires the use of debt.

The Federal Reserve Bank holding company policy statement, first issued in 1980, allows for relief from certain requirements, making it necessary for a small bank holding company to raise the necessary capital and issue debt. The policy statement also simplifies acquisitions and formation of new bank and thrift holding companies. These are important tools in ensuring that our smallest institutions can continue to lend in their communities, hire new staff, and survive what remains of a very difficult time for community banks.

H.R. 3329 simply increases the threshold in the Fed's policy statement from $500 million to $1 billion in assets.

□ 1730

The $500 million threshold has not been touched since 2006.

In the past 7 years, our Nation's smallest bank and thrift holding companies have faced significant recession, consolidation, and an alarming number of bank failures. While this bill does offer regulatory relief to our Nation's smallest institutions, it also includes safeguards that allow the Fed to continue to monitor for safety and soundness. The Fed retains the right to impose capital standards on a holding company if the Board of Governors decides it is needed to protect the safety and soundness of that institution and its customers.

Additionally, the policy statement outlines requirements that limit a bank holding company's ability to benefit from this relief. H.R. 3329 keeps these safeguards in place. This noncontroversial bill will help more than 500 of our Nation's smallest banks and thrift holding companies.

H.R. 3329 has bipartisan support and the support of the Independent Community Bankers of America and the American Bankers Association.

H.R. 3329 will go a long way in ensuring that these institutions are able to grow stronger and continue to serve their communities.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this commonsense legislation.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3329.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

CREDIT UNION SHARE INSURANCE FUND PARITY ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3468) to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to extend insurance coverage to amounts held in a member account on behalf of another person, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3468

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act''.

SEC. 2. INSURANCE OF AMOUNTS HELD ON BEHALF OF OTHERS.

Section 207(k) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1787(k)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(A) by inserting after ''payable to any member'' the following: '', or to any person with funds lawfully held in a member account,''; and

(B) by striking ''and paragraphs (5) and (6)'';

(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''(as determined under paragraph (5))'';

(3) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) COVERAGE FOR INTEREST ON LAWYERS TRUST ACCOUNTS (IOLTA) AND OTHER SIMILAR ESCROW ACCOUNTS.—

''(A) PASS-THROUGH INSURANCE.—The Administration shall provide pass-through share insurance for the deposits or shares of any interest on lawyers trust account (IOLTA) or other similar escrow accounts.

''(B) TREATMENT OF IOLTAS.—

''(i) TREATMENT AS ESCROW ACCOUNTS.—For share insurance purposes, IOLTAs are treated as escrow accounts.

''(ii) TREATMENT AS MEMBER ACCOUNTS.—IOLTAs and other similar escrow accounts are considered member accounts for purposes of paragraph (1), if the attorney administering the IOLTA or the escrow agent administering the escrow account is a member of the insured credit union in which the funds are held.

''(C) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph:

''(i) INTEREST ON LAWYERS TRUST ACCOUNT.—The terms 'interest on lawyers trust account' and 'IOLTA' mean a system in which lawyers place certain client funds in interest-bearing or dividend-bearing accounts, with the interest or dividends then used to fund programs such as legal service organizations who provide services to clients in need.

''(ii) PASS-THROUGH SHARE INSURANCE.—The term 'pass-through share insurance' means, with respect to IOLTAs and other similar escrow accounts, insurance coverage based on the interest of each person on whose behalf funds are held in such accounts by the attorney administering the IOLTA or the escrow agent administering a similar escrow account, in accordance with regulations issued by the Administration.

''(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—No provision of this paragraph shall be construed as authorizing an insured credit union to accept the deposits of an IOLTA or similar escrow account in an amount greater than such credit union is authorized to accept under any other provision of Federal or State law.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the bill, H.R. 3468.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of the Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act. This is a bill which passed out of the Financial Services Committee on a voice vote. This is bipartisan, commonsense legislation. The bill is supported by the Credit Union National Association, the National Association of Federal Credit Unions, the California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues, as well as the American Bar Association.

What this bill does is to ensure that there is parity in the treatment of trust accounts covered by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the FDIC.

The Financial Services Committee has heard the testimony of credit unions from West Virginia to Texas that:

> There is no public policy reason for deposit insurance purposes to distinguish credit union interest on lawyer trust accounts (IOLTAs) from those insured by FDIC. It is essential for the NCUA's share insurance fund to be treated identically in order to maintain parity between the two Federal insurance programs.

Specifically, the bill amends the Federal Credit Union Act to require that pass-through share insurance coverage be provided when a credit union member holds funds on behalf of a nonmember in an IOLTA or other similar account.

Unlike FDIC coverage, currently the National Credit Union Administration treats funds held by credit union members on behalf of those who are not federally insured credit union members as not covered by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund. This has created, of course, a disparity in coverage, specifically when looking at IOLTAs and prepaid debit master accounts.

Part of the mission of credit unions from their very beginning has been to reach out to the community around them, especially to reach out to the underserved. Maintaining a strong commitment to the IOLTA community and removing a barrier to greater participation sustains that very mission.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, a bill which corrects a technical disparity between the way trust accounts are federally insured at credit unions and at banks.

I look forward to the statement of the other ED, the gentleman from Colorado, my friend, who has been a champion of this important bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, Mr. ROYCE of California, for his remarks, and I yield myself such time as I may consume. As I say: ''Two Eds are better than one.'' So we will start with that.

This bill is designed to create parity between certain accounts held at credit unions and those held at FDIC insured banks.

As a preliminary matter, I introduce into the RECORD six letters.

The first is a letter dated September 17, 1996, signed by Richard Schulman, the associate general counsel of the National Credit Union Administration.

Second is a letter dated October 8, 2008. That is from Sheila A. Albin, associate general counsel.

A letter dated May 6, 2014, from the American Bar Association, signed by the president, James R. Silkenat.

A letter dated May 5, 2014, signed by Brad Thaler of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions.

A letter dated May 5, 2014, signed by Bill Cheney, president of the Credit Union National Association.

And finally, a letter signed by Scott Earl from Mountain West Credit Union Association.

SEPTEMBER 17, 1996.

Re Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (''IOLTA''), (Your August 22, 1996, Letter)

ELYSE E. ROGERS, Esq.,
Mette, Evans & Woodside,
Harrisburg, PA.

DEAR MS. ROGERS: In your letter, you requested our opinion as to whether Pennsylvania attorneys can maintain client trust funds, in association with Pennsylvania's IOLTA Program, in share draft accounts at credit unions regulated by the National Credit Union Administration. As discussed below, the answer depends upon the credit union membership status of the clients whose funds are contained in the IOLTA account.

ANALYSIS

Generally, an IOLTA account is set-up by an attorney or a law firm as an escrow account containing pooled client funds. In a credit union, an IOLTA account would be set-up as an ''agent'' account. Section 745.3(a)(2) of NCUA's Regulations defines an agent account as ''[f]unds owned by a principal [member] and deposited in one or more accounts in the names of agents or nominees. . . .'' The client continues to own the funds while the attorney or law firm serves only as a custodial agent.

A federal credit union (FCU) can only accept funds belonging to its member or those

that qualify for membership. There are limited exceptions which permit an FCU to accept nonmember funds if it serves predominately low-income members and thereby has a ''low-income'' designation. 12 U.S.C. §1757(6). NCUA Regulations define a member as ''those persons enumerated in the credit union's field of membership.'' 12 C.F.R. §745.1(b). Membership in an FCU is limited ''to groups having a common bond of occupation or association, or to groups within a well-defined neighborhood, community, or rural district.'' 12 U.S.C. §1759. An FCU's charter outlines its membership. 12 U.S.C. §§1753, 1754.

With an agent account, the membership status of the client (owner of the funds) and not that of the agent (attorney, law firm or IOLTA Board) is determinative as to whether an IOLTA account can be properly maintained. Consequently, in order for an attorney or law firm to maintain an IOLTA account at an FCU, either all of the clients whose funds would be deposited must be members of that FCU or the FCU must be designated as a low income which would allow it to accept nonmember funds.

Sincerely,

RICHARD S. SCHULMAN,
Associate General Counsel.

OCTOBER 8, 2008.

Re Insurance Coverage for Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Accounts

MARY HOEFT SMITH,
Trust Account Program Administrator, Supreme Court of Wisconsin, Office of Lawyer Regulation, Madison, WI.

DEAR MS. HOEFT SMITH: You have asked us about the insurance coverage by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF) for IOLTA accounts in federal and state-chartered credit unions and those designated as ''low-income.'' As discussed below, client funds in an IOLTA account are insured for those clients who are members of the credit union or, if a credit union is designated as low-income, all funds are insured regardless of the client's membership status.

Under IOLTA programs, lawyers and law firms establish accounts to hold their clients' funds in trust to pay costs related to legal services. Participation in IOLTA programs by lawyers and law firms is required in some states and is optional in other states. A lawyer or law firm opens an IOLTA account and, as an agent, deposits its clients' funds in the account and holds them there in trust until they are needed. The interest earned from the money in the IOLTA accounts is aggregated and paid generally to another state agency or private nonprofit organization, such as a state bar association, to subsidize legal aid services or for other charitable purposes.

The clients, not their lawyers or law firms, own the funds in an IOLTA account. The lawyers or law firms are merely the agents holding the funds in trust for their clients. While NCUSIF insurance coverage might cover clients as the beneficial owners of the funds, 12 C.F.R. §745.3(a)(2); see, e.g., OGC Op. 96–0841 (Sept. 17, 1996), OGC Op. 94–0119 (Feb. 9, 1994) (available on NCUA's website at www.ncua.gov), the NCUSIF insures only member accounts. Therefore, client funds in an IOLTA account are insured by the NCUSIF only for those clients who are members of the credit union. 12 C.F.R. §§745.0, 745.1(b). In the event of a credit union's liquidation, the amount of each client's insured funds in IOLTA accounts is added together with any other individual account of the client. 12 C.F.R. §745.3. Insurance coverage is the same whether the credit union is a federal or state-chartered credit union. 12 C.F.R. Part §745.

You have also asked about NCUSIF insurance coverage for IOLTA accounts at federal and state-chartered credit unions designated as low-income. Both federal credit unions and state-chartered credit unions designated as low-income can accept nonmember funds. 12 U.S.C. §1757(6); 12 C.F.R. §701.34; see, e.g., OGC Op. 96–0841. A state-chartered credit union can also be designated as low-income. 12 C.F.R. §741.204(b). Nonmembers at low-income credit unions are considered members for purposes of NCUSIF coverage. 12 C.F.R. §745.1(b). Therefore, a nonmember client's funds in an IOLTA account at a low-income credit union are entitled to NCUSIF coverage. 12 C.F.R. §745.1(b).

Sincerely,

SHEILA A. ALBIN,
Associate General Counsel.

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION,
Chicago, IL, May 6, 2014.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERLMUTTER: On behalf of the American Bar Association and its nearly 400,000 members, I am writing in support of H.R. 3468, the ''Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act.''

This legislation would benefit state charitable programs receiving revenue from Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) by providing attorneys the ability to hold client funds in credit unions, which have historically provided higher interest rates than other financial institutions. More than 90 percent of IOLTA grants fund the delivery of legal services to Americans living in poverty. Legal aid and pro bono programs receiving IOLTA funds provide legal assistance to veterans, domestic violence victims, those coping with the after-effects of natural disasters, and those undergoing foreclosures and other housing issues.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. The ABA stands ready to assist you in helping this legislation become law.

Sincerely,

JAMES R. SILKENAT,
President.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS,
Arlington, VA, May 3, 2014.

Re Support and Pass H.R. 3468, the Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: On behalf of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU), the only trade association exclusively representing the interests of our nation's federal credit unions, I write in strong support of the Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act (H.R. 3468), and to urge swift passage of this important bipartisan legislation.

Maintaining parity between the coverage provided by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) on all types of deposits and accounts is imperative and a longstanding goal of NAFCU member credit unions. Consumers often do not distinguish between the government backing on accounts at financial institutions. It is important that the law dictate that there is no difference in coverage, so as not to favor one type of institution over another in the marketplace. NAFCU is pleased that the legislation, as favorably reported out of committee, will provide NCUSIF parity with the FDIC for certain accounts, including Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTAs).

We applaud and thank the bill's sponsors, as well as House leadership, for addressing this important issue as it will provide much needed relief to our nation's credit unions. We appreciate your consideration of this measure and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further should you need additional information. If my colleagues or I can be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact myself or NAFCU's Director of Legislative Affairs, Jillian Pevo.

Sincerely,

BRAD THALER,
Vice President of Legislative Affairs.

CREDIT UNION NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2014.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE. On behalf of the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), I am writing in support of certain regulatory relief measures scheduled on the suspension calendar this week. CUNA is the largest credit union advocacy organization in the United States, representing America's state and federally chartered credit unions and their 99 million members.

Credit unions face a crisis of creeping complexity with respect to regulatory burden. It is not any one regulatory change or requirement that is causing this crisis, but the ever-increasing, never decreasing accumulation of regulations over time that cripples credit unions' ability to efficiently serve their members. The bills that the House will consider this week will take small steps toward alleviating some of that burden, and better enable credit unions to more fully serve their members.

Credit unions support H.R. 3584, the Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act; H.R. 3468, the Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act; and H.R. 2672, the CFPB Rural Designation Petition and Correction Act. We urge the House to pass these measures.

H.R. 3584—CAPITAL ACCESS FOR SMALL COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT

H.R. 3584, introduced by Representatives Steve Stivers (R–OH) and Joyce Beatty (D–OH), seeks to correct a drafting error in the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) Act that prohibits state chartered, privately insured credit unions from joining the FHLB system. This legislation was reported out of the Financial Services Committee on March 14, 2014 by a vote of 55–0; similar legislation has also been approved by the House of Representatives as part of comprehensive regulatory relief legislation in 2006 and 2008. By correcting the oversight in the original legislation, 132 privately insured credit unions across the country will be eligible for membership in the FHLB system and have additional opportunities to provide mortgage credit to their members.

H.R. 3468—CREDIT UNION SHARE INSURANCE FUND PARITY ACT

H.R. 3468, introduced by Representatives Ed Royce (R–CA) and Ed Perlmutter (D–CO), provide National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF) coverage for trust accounts, such as Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTAS) and other similar accounts. This legislation is necessary because the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) has interpreted that the Federal Credit Union Act does not permit it to extend such coverage. The legislation would direct the NCUA to extend share insurance to the fund held in trust accounts opened and managed by credit union members, even if the funds in such accounts are owned by one or more nonmembers. This would provide parity in the

insurance treatment of trust accounts offered by credit unions with the treatment of similar accounts offered by banks.

H.R. 3468 was reported out of the Financial Services Committee on November 14, 2013 by voice vote.

H.R. 2672—CFPB RURAL DESIGNATION PETITION AND CORRECTION ACT

H.R. 2672, introduced by Representative Andy Barr (R–KY) would direct the CFPB to establish an application process determining whether a county should be designated as a rural area if the CFPB has not designated it as one. Designation of ''rural'' by the CFPB has many implications for credit unions, particularly with respect to the type of products credit unions may offer their members in these areas. For instance, the Escrow Requirements under the Truth in Lending Act Rule require certain lenders to create an escrow account for at least five years for higher-priced mortgage loans. If those loans are made by small lenders that operate predominately in rural or underserved counties, they are exempt from this requirement. Another example includes the Ability to Repay and Qualified Mortgage (QM) Standards Under the Truth in Lending Act rule by which mortgage loans with balloon payments do not meet the QM standard. Like the Escrow Rule, small lenders that operate predominately in rural areas are eligible to originate balloon-payment QMs. The CFPB has defined ''rural'' by using the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Services'' urban influence codes.

H.R. 2672 was reported out of the Financial Services Committee on March 14, 2014 by a vote of 54–1.

CONCLUSION

Each of these bills would reduce credit unions regulatory burden and help them better serve their members. They were all subject to thorough consideration by the Financial Services Committee, and as the votes indicate, they are noncontroversial. We urge you to support the bills when they come to the floor.

On behalf of America's credit unions and their 99 million members, thank you very much for your consideration of our views.

Best regards,

BILL CHENEY,
President & CEO.

MOUNTAIN WEST
CREDIT UNION ASSOCIATION,
Denver, CO.

Hon. ED PERLMUTTER,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERLMUTTER. On behalf of the Mountain West Credit Union Association, the trade association that represents Colorado credit unions, I am writing to express our support for H.R. 3468—Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act, which provides the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF) coverage for trust accounts, such as interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTAS) and other similar accounts.

As you know, attorneys routinely receive client funds that are to be placed in IOTLA accounts. These accounts generate interest for charitable causes, primarily civil legal services for economically disadvantaged citizens. Currently, credit unions are unable to offer IOTLA accounts to members because the Federal Credit Union Act does not permit NCUA to extend insurance coverage to these accounts. As a result, credit union members that would like to open IOLTAS are then forced to go to thrift or a bank.

If passed, this legislation would provide parity in the insurance treatment of these accounts for credit unions.

On behalf of Mountain West Credit Union Association and our member credit unions, I want to thank you and Congressman Royce for your leadership in sponsoring this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

SCOTT EARL,
President/CEO.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Specifically, the bill extends insurance coverage to Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts, as Mr. ROYCE said, and I will call those ''trust accounts or similar escrow accounts,'' those that are held at credit unions that are otherwise fully insured at FDIC-insured banks up to $250,000.

As a practicing lawyer for 25 years, I know Lawyer Trust Accounts in Colorado as COLTAs, or Colorado Lawyer Trust Accounts, which we established for our clients so that interest can be earned for various charities that might exist. For instance, legal aid which provides assistance to veterans or people involved in domestic violence situations.

Under our bill, if a credit union were ever to fail and needed to be resolved, then the client funds held in an escrow account would be insured and thus protected, regardless if the beneficiary is a member of the credit union or not. In my instance, if I had a trust account which had a number of different clients, some clients might be members of the credit union, others are not. Only those under current law that are members of the credit union are covered by share insurance. Those that are not members of the credit union are not covered. So we are trying to stop this differentiation between banks and credit unions.

Currently, the NCUA's regulations and legal opinions as established in 1996, which is one the letters we are introducing today, do not allow Federal deposit insurance equal to the coverage provided by the FDIC for accounts held by credit union members that contain funds owned by one or more nonmembers.

IOLTA accounts often contain funds from many clients, some of whom may not be members of the particular credit union where the attorney or the escrow agent has opened the account.

With an IOLTA account or other escrow accounts held in trust, under current law, the membership status of the client/beneficiary, and not of the agent or the attorney, is determinative as to whether an IOLTA account can be properly maintained. In order for a law firm or a real estate escrow company to maintain an IOLTA account at a credit union, either all of the clients whose funds would be deposited must be members of that credit union or the credit union must be designated as a low-income, which would allow it to accept nonmember funds.

Many States or bar associations require the funds in an IOLTA to be fully insured, meaning a lawyer may not be able to use a credit union for these accounts if they can't be fully covered.

It is important to note that this legislation should not be seen as an authorization to take nonmember deposits beyond the current regulatory limits, nor should it be seen as an authorization for the NCUA to increase those thresholds.

What we have before us today is a negotiated compromise. The language as introduced in the manager's amendment narrowly defines which accounts will be extended Credit Union Share Insurance Fund coverage. This includes IOLTA/COLTAFs and other escrow accounts held in trust.

I thank my friend from California for bringing this legislation. It is time that there be parity and that all of the clients be covered by the Share Insurance Fund.

I urge quick passage of H.R. 3468, the Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3468, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

FOREIGN CULTURAL EXCHANGE JURISDICTIONAL IMMUNITY CLARIFICATION ACT

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4292) to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4292

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act''.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF JURISDICTIONAL IMMUNITY OF FOREIGN STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1605 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) JURISDICTIONAL IMMUNITY FOR CERTAIN ART EXHIBITION ACTIVITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—If—

''(A) a work is imported into the United States from any foreign country pursuant to an agreement that provides for the temporary exhibition or display of such work entered into between a foreign state that is the owner or custodian of such work and the United States or one or more cultural or educational institutions within the United States,

''(B) the President, or the President's designee, has determined, in accordance with subsection (a) of Public Law 89–259 (22 U.S.C. 2459(a)), that such work is of cultural significance and the temporary exhibition or display of such work is in the national interest, and

''(C) the notice thereof has been published in accordance with subsection (a) of Public Law 89–259 (22 U.S.C. 2459(a)),

any activity in the United States of such foreign state, or of any carrier, that is associated with the temporary exhibition or display of such work shall not be considered to be commercial activity by such foreign state for purposes of subsection (a)(3).

''(2) NAZI-ERA CLAIMS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply in any case asserting jurisdiction under subsection (a)(3) in which rights in property taken in violation of international law are in issue within the meaning of that subsection and—

''(A) the property at issue is the work described in paragraph (1);

''(B) the action is based upon a claim that such work was taken in connection with the acts of a covered government during the covered period;

''(C) the court determines that the activity associated with the exhibition or display is commercial activity, as that term is defined in section 1603(d); and

''(D) a determination under subparagraph (C) is necessary for the court to exercise jurisdiction over the foreign state under subsection (a)(3).

''(3) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) the term 'work' means a work of art or other object of cultural significance;

''(B) the term 'covered government' means—

''(i) the Government of Germany during the covered period;

''(ii) any government in any area in Europe that was occupied by the military forces of the Government of Germany during the covered period;

''(iii) any government in Europe that was established with the assistance or cooperation of the Government of Germany during the covered period; and

''(iv) any government in Europe that was an ally of the Government of Germany during the covered period; and

''(C) the term 'covered period' means the period beginning on January 30, 1933, and ending on May 8, 1945.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to any civil action commenced on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 4292, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank Chairman GOODLATTE, Ranking Member CONYERS, and my friend from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for cosponsoring this legislation.

This is simple, straightforward legislation. It clarifies the relationship between the Immunity from Seizure Act and the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act to encourage the foreign lending of art to the United States.

Currently, artwork loaned by foreign governments is commonly immune to Federal court decisions and cannot be confiscated if the President finds that their display is in the national interest. However, foreign governments do not have immunity when commercial activity is involved. This bill seeks to clarify that artwork imported into the U.S. for temporary display is not commercial activity and should thus be immune from seizure. Specifically, my legislation would revise the United States Code and make clear that the import of artwork is not legally considered commercial activity if three elements are met:

First, the United States, or an educational institute therein, and a foreign government must agree to the exchange of artwork;

Second, the President must determine that such work is of cultural significance and the temporary exhibition of such work is in the national interest;

And third, the President's determination must be published in the Federal Register.

In enacting the Immunity from Seizure Act, Congress recognized that cultural exchange would produce substantial benefits to the United States, both artistically and diplomatically. Foreign lending should be allowed to continue to aid cultural understanding and increase public exposure to archeological artifacts. This bill reaffirms our country's commitment to the foreign lending of artwork to American museums.

However, for artwork and cultural objects owned by foreign governments, the intent of the Immunity from Seizure Act is being frustrated currently by the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. A provision of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act opens foreign governments up to the jurisdiction of U.S. courts for court actions if foreign government-owned artwork is temporarily imported into the U.S.

Similar to its Senate companion, this bill includes a Nazi-era exception which provides that immunity does not apply to cases in which property was taken in violation of international law, and those are things which are in question, and the action is based upon a claim that such work was taken in connection with acts of the German Government during the period of January 30, 1933, through May 8, 1945.

□ 1745

According to the American Association of Museum Directors, current law has led to, on several occasions, foreign governments declining to exchange artwork and cultural objects with the United States for temporary exhibitions.

In 2010, for example, the Russian Federation imposed a ban on state-owned art loans to American museums on the grounds that such works could be subject to legal action. As a result of this ban, several U.S. museums, which had loan agreements with the Russian national institutions, were forced to cancel long-planned Russian art exhibits.

In order to keep the exchange of foreign government-owned art flowing, Congress needs to clarify the relationship between these two acts that I previously described.

This legislation does just that: ensuring that museums, like the Cincinnati Museum Center and the Cincinnati Art Museum—both in my district—and other similar museums all across the country, may continue to present first-class exhibits and educate the public on cultural heritage and artwork from all around the globe.

Through the enactment of this legislation, we can secure foreign lending to American museums and ensure that foreign art lenders are not entangled in unnecessary litigation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is nice to see a Tennessean in the chair. James Knox Polk might have been the last one who was more permanent as Speaker of the House. Yes, it is good to see you.

To my friend, Mr. CHABOT, it is an honor to rise and to cosponsor this bill with you and with Mr. GOODLATTE and Mr. CONYERS.

Madam Speaker, I do rise in support of H.R. 4292, the Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act, also known as the FCEJIC Act.

This makes a modest, but important amendment to the expropriation exception of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976.

Specifically, it ensures that foreign states are immune from suits for damages concerning the ownership of cultural property when that property is in the United States pursuant to an agreement between the foreign state and the U.S. or a U.S.-based cultural or educational institution, when the President has granted the work at issue immunity from seizure pursuant to the Immunity from Seizure Act, and when the President's grant of immunity from seizure is published in the Federal Register.

The expropriation exception remains available to all claims concerning misappropriated cultural property to which these factual circumstances do not apply.

Additionally, H.R. 4292 ensures that the expropriation exception remains available for all Nazi-era claims. This is appropriate in light of the particularly concerted effort of the Nazis to seize artwork and other cultural property from citizens at that time, victims of the Holocaust and others.

There have been quite a few movies recently about some of the people in our armed services who helped rescue some of that artwork, which is to be commended, and it really brought out the horrific things in that area that

the Nazis did. They did so many horrific things, but they just wanted to destroy all culture, so any artwork that might be part of those claims would still be available.

With this finely and narrowly tailored amendment, we will have more opportunities to see art from Europe and from around the world. It is important to have exchanges of culture, so that people around the world understand the other cultures and so that it maybe makes the planet a little more safe. I support the bill as I understand that it still makes available redress for those who committed acts of expropriation during the Nazi era.

I thank Mr. CHABOT, who is my friend and who has done a great job, and we hope to keep the river flowing and the Delta Queen alive. I thank the Judiciary Committee chairman, BOB GOODLATTE, and our ranking member, the esteemed JOHN CONYERS, for their leadership.

I urge the House to pass the bill, and I would like to offer for the RECORD a letter from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, which speaks for itself, and for the American Jewish Congress in their stating that they would not oppose the passage of this bill.

CONFERENCE ON JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS AGAINST GERMANY, INC.

New York, NY, December 19, 2013.

Mr. TIMOTHY RUB,

President, Association of Art Museum Directors, The George D. Widener Director and CEO, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Philadelphia, PA.

DEAR MR. RUB, Anita Difanis has now sent us the language of the most recent draft of the immunity bill (the ''Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act'') that the AAMD is asking be introduced to the Congress. We have reviewed the points that concerned us, namely those in regard to Nazi Era claims.

While we are not persuaded of the need for this special legislation, we have no objection to it. The American Jewish Committee concurs with this view.

Sincerely yours,

GREG SCHNEIDER,
Executive Vice-President.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE), the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. GOODLATTE. I would like to begin by thanking Mr. CHABOT for introducing this legislation and by thanking Mr. CONYERS and Mr. COHEN for their support as well.

Madam Speaker, the Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act strengthens the ability of U.S. museums and educational institutions to borrow foreign government-owned artwork and cultural artifacts for temporary exhibition or display.

The United States has long recognized the importance of encouraging the cultural exchange of ideas through exhibitions of artwork and other artifacts loaned from other countries.

These exchanges expose Americans to other cultures and foster understanding between people of different nationalities, languages, religions, and races. Unfortunately, the future success of cultural exchanges is severely threatened by a disconnect between the Immunity from Seizure Act and the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.

Loans of artwork and cultural objects depend upon foreign lenders having confidence that the items they loan will be returned and that the loan will not open them up to lawsuits in U.S. courts.

For 40 years, the Immunity from Seizure Act provided foreign government lenders with this confidence. However, rulings in several recent Federal cases have undermined the protection provided by the Immunity from Seizure Act.

In these decisions, the Federal courts have held that the Immunity from Seizure Act does not preempt the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. The effect has been to open foreign governments up to the jurisdiction of U.S. courts simply because they loaned artwork or cultural objects to an American museum or educational institution.

This has significantly impeded the ability of U.S. institutions to borrow foreign government-owned items. It has also resulted in cultural exchanges being curtailed as foreign government lenders have become hesitant to permit their cultural property to travel to the United States.

This bill addresses this situation. It provides that, if the State Department grants immunity to a loan of artwork or cultural objects from—under the Immunity from Seizure Act, then the loan cannot subject a foreign government to the jurisdiction of U.S. courts under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.

This is very narrow legislation. It only applies to one of the many grounds for jurisdiction under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act. Moreover, it requires the State Department to grant the artwork immunity under the Immunity from Seizure Act before its provisions apply, and in order to preserve the claims of victims of the Nazi government and its allies during World War II, the bill has an exception for claims brought by these victims.

If we want to encourage foreign governments to continue to lend artwork and other artifacts to American museums and educational institutions, we must enact this legislation.

Without the protections this bill provides, foreign governments will avoid the risk of lending their cultural items to American institutions, and the American public will lose the opportunity to view and appreciate these cultural objects from abroad.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, in closing, I just want to comment that Mr. GOODLATTE's committee has now produced this bill and the next bill, the Lummis-Cohen bill, and we came together to work against sex trafficking last week.

So the Judiciary Committee, under the leadership of Mr. GOODLATTE, is starting to produce a lot of good, bipartisan legislation. I commend him for that work, and I hope we see more of it.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will be very brief. I would like to, first of all, thank the Cincinnati Museum Center and the Cincinnati Art Museum for bringing this matter to my attention.

I want to particularly thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for his leadership on this bill, as well as to thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. GOODLATTE, and also the ranking member, Mr. CONYERS, for their leadership.

Without having any additional speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4292.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

OPEN BOOK ON EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2919) to amend titles 5 and 28, United States Code, to require annual reports to Congress on, and the maintenance of databases on, awards of fees and other expenses to prevailing parties in certain administrative proceedings and court cases to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2919

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act''.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROVISIONS.

(a) AGENCY PROCEEDINGS.—Section 504 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking '', United States Code'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (i); and

(3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e)(1) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, after consultation with the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, shall report to the Congress, not later than March 31 of each year, on the amount of fees and other expenses awarded during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to this section. The report shall describe the number, nature, and amount of the awards, the claims involved in the controversy, and any other relevant information that may aid the Congress in evaluating the scope and impact of such awards. The report shall be made available to the public online.

''(2)(A) The report required by paragraph (1) shall account for all payments of fees and other expenses awarded under this section that are made pursuant to a settlement agreement, regardless of whether the settlement agreement is sealed or otherwise subject to nondisclosure provisions.

''(B) The disclosure of fees and other expenses required under subparagraph (A) does not affect any other information that is subject to nondisclosure provisions in the settlement agreement.

''(f) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference shall create and maintain online a searchable database containing the following information with respect to each award of fees and other expenses under this section:

''(1) The case name and number of the adversary adjudication, if available, hyperlinked to the case, if available.

''(2) The name of the agency involved in the adversary adjudication.

''(3) A description of the claims in the adversary adjudication.

''(4) The name of each party to whom the award was made.

''(5) The amount of the award.

''(6) The basis for the finding that the position of the agency concerned was not substantially justified.

''(g) The online searchable database described in subsection (f) may not reveal any information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law or court order.

''(h) The head of each agency shall provide to the Chairman of the Administrative Conference in a timely manner all information requested by the Chairman to comply with the requirements of subsections (e), (f), and (g).''.

(b) COURT CASES.—Section 2412(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5)(A) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States shall submit to the Congress, not later than March 31 of each year, a report on the amount of fees and other expenses awarded during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to this subsection. The report shall describe the number, nature, and amount of the awards, the claims involved in each controversy, and any other relevant information that may aid the Congress in evaluating the scope and impact of such awards. The report shall be made available to the public online.

''(B)(i) The report required by subparagraph (A) shall account for all payments of fees and other expenses awarded under this subsection that are made pursuant to a settlement agreement, regardless of whether the settlement agreement is sealed or otherwise subject to nondisclosure provisions.

''(ii) The disclosure of fees and other expenses required under clause (i) does not affect any other information that is subject to nondisclosure provisions in the settlement agreement.

''(C) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference shall include and clearly identify in the annual report under subparagraph (A), for each case in which an award of fees and other expenses is included in the report—

''(i) any amounts paid from section 1304 of title 31 for a judgment in the case;

''(ii) the amount of the award of fees and other expenses; and

''(iii) the statute under which the plaintiff filed suit.

''(6) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference shall create and maintain online a searchable database containing the following information with respect to each award of fees and other expenses under this subsection:

''(A) The case name and number, hyperlinked to the case, if available.

''(B) The name of the agency involved in the case.

''(C) The name of each party to whom the award was made.

''(D) A description of the claims in the case.

''(E) The amount of the award.

''(F) The basis for the finding that the position of the agency concerned was not substantially justified.

''(7) The online searchable database described in paragraph (6) may not reveal any information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law or court order.

''(8) The head of each agency shall provide to the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States in a timely manner all information requested by the Chairman to comply with the requirements of paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), including the Attorney General of the United States and the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 2412 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(3), by striking ''United States Code,''; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking ''of section 2412 of title 28, United States Code,'' and inserting ''of this section''; and

(B) by striking ''of such title'' and inserting ''of this title''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall first apply with respect to awards of fees and other expenses that are made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) INITIAL REPORTS.—The first reports required by section 504(e) of title 5, United States Code, and section 2412(d)(5) of title 28, United States Code, shall be submitted not later than March 31 of the calendar year following the first calendar year in which a fiscal year begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) ONLINE DATABASES.—The online databases required by section 504(f) of title 5, United States Code, and section 2412(d)(6) of title 28, United States Code, shall be established as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, but in no case later than the date on which the first reports under section 504(e) of title 5, United States Code, and section 2412(d)(5) of title 28, United States Code, are required to be submitted under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 2919, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to begin by thanking Representative CYNTHIA LUMMIS and the Constitution Subcommittee ranking member again, Mr. COHEN from Tennessee, for introducing this important government transparency legislation.

Every year, pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, the Federal Government, through settlement or court order, pays millions of dollars in legal fees and costs to parties to lawsuits and administrative adjudications that involve the Federal Government.

However, despite the large number of taxpayer dollars paid out each year through the Act, the Federal Government no longer comprehensively keeps track of the amount of fees and other expenses awarded, why these fees and expenses were awarded, and to whom these costs were awarded.

This is because, in 1995, Congress repealed the Department of Justice's reporting requirements and defunded the Administrative Conference of the United States, which is the agency charged with reporting this basic information to Congress—to us.

The Administrative Conference was reestablished in 2010, but the requirements to report the fee and cost payments have not been reenacted. Accordingly, there has been no official governmentwide accounting of this information since fiscal year 1994, almost 20 years ago.

This lack of transparency is troubling, given that the Equal Access to Justice Act is considered by many to be the most important Federal fee-shifting statute. Fundamentally, the Act recognizes that there is an enormous disparity of resources between the Federal Government and individuals and small businesses that seek to challenge the Federal actions.

Congress enacted the Equal Access to Justice Act to provide individuals, small businesses, and small nonprofit groups with financial assistance to bring suit against the Federal Government or to defend themselves from lawsuits brought by the Federal Government.

As the Supreme Court has noted, the Act was adopted with the ''specific purpose . . . of eliminating for the average person the financial disincentive to challenge unreasonable governmental actions.''

But how can we know if the Act is working well toward this end if we have no data on awards?

Without the data, this bill requires the Administrative Conference to compile and report that we have nothing more than anecdotal evidence as to whether the Act is working.

The legislation we are considering today will end this lack of transparency and will restore the reporting

requirements that were repealed back in 1995.

I want to, once again, thank Representatives LUMMIS and COHEN for introducing this bill. It is good legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2919, the Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act, also known as the Longworth 1004 Act.

This bipartisan legislation makes a modest, but important improvement to the Equal Access to Justice Act, also known as EAJA. That Act, which was enacted in 1980, allows parties, under certain circumstances, to be awarded attorneys' fees and court costs when they prevail in litigation against the United States.

EAJA enables ordinary citizens, such as veterans, senior citizens, and advocates for clean air and clean water, to fight unfair or illegal government actions without fear of the court costs involved.

Over the years, the Act has succeeded, but since 1995, when certain reporting requirements were eliminated, we have had no reliable data on how much money the government has awarded in these proceedings. The public has a right to know how taxpayer funds are used, and Congress ought to be able to assess the impact and effectiveness of EAJA.

□ 1800

To address this failing, H.R. 2919 would require the Administrative Conference of the United States, or ACUS, a highly respected nonpartisan agency, to prepare an annual report for Congress on the fees and costs awarded in these cases. The reports would also include the number and nature of the claims involved.

The Conference would also be required to establish a publicly accessible, searchable database with this information, as well as the case name, the agency involved, and the basis of the award.

I am very pleased to sponsor this bill along with the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS), who has done a great job bringing this to this floor, shepherding it through to, hopefully, passage and becoming law. We have worked on a bipartisan basis to address this issue.

H.R. 2919 represents a compromise with respect to a broader bill related to EAJA which Mrs. LUMMIS previously introduced. It is an excellent example of what happens when there is bipartisan cooperation.

This legislation will promote greater transparency with respect to our government and provide valuable information for Congress and our citizens. It exemplifies the bipartisan cooperation we are capable of in this Chamber.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS).

Mrs. LUMMIS. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2919, the Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act. I want to thank the ranking member, STEVE COHEN, for joining me in introducing this legislation. The gentleman from Tennessee was the person from whom I inherited the hallowed halls of Longworth 1004. Our staff shared duties, including each other's phone duties when meetings were being held in our offices. It was a great partnership and a wonderful bipartisan relationship that I have enjoyed ever since coming to Congress.

I deeply thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his friendship. He was instrumental in securing bipartisan support for passage of H.R. 2919 through the Judiciary Committee.

H.R. 2919 reinstates the tracking and reporting of attorneys fees paid out by the Federal Government under the Equal Access to Justice Act, also known as EAJA.

EAJA was first enacted in 1980, with the goal of protecting small businesses and other citizens facing unreasonable government action. It was meant to address the David and Goliath situation that exists when a citizen has to go to court against the Federal Government's vast financial and legal resources.

Consistent with this theme, EAJA was amended in 1985 to facilitate its application to Social Security claims. It was again amended in 1992 to include claims before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

EAJA has been subject to numerous reviews and revisions over the years to keep it up to date. Its requirement for agencies to track and report on attorneys' fees helped inform Congress in its past efforts to improve the law. This transparency was also a safeguard for the Federal taxpayers who finance the law.

Prior to 1995, EAJA payments trickled out at a rate of about $3 million annually. But since tracking and reporting requirements were eliminated in 1995, EAJA has operated in the dark.

As a Government Accountability Office report made clear, most agencies do not track payments—and won't—unless Congress gives them direction to do so. Madam Speaker, that is why we are here today.

As the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), mentioned, we only have anecdotal evidence as to how much we are spending on attorney fees, which agencies pay out the fees, and for what types of claims. We need transparency to better monitor this law moving forward.

H.R. 2919 both reinstates transparency and improves it by requiring the information be posted online in a searchable database. We owe this to the small businesses, veterans, Social Security claimants, and others who rely on EAJA for their once-in-a-lifetime court battles with the Federal Government. And we owe it to the hardworking taxpayers who are financing this law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CHABOT. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Mrs. LUMMIS. I deeply appreciate it.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2919.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS).

Mrs. LUMMIS. Madam Speaker, in great appreciation and deference to the gentleman on the Judiciary Committee, and especially to my cosponsor, Mr. COHEN, I gratefully acknowledge his cosponsorship—he supported this bill—and the hard work of the House Judiciary Committee.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. DAINES).

Mr. DAINES. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlelady from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS), as well as the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for their bipartisan support in this most important bill.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 2919, the Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act, which increases transparency and works to ensure that the Equal Access to Justice Act, or EAJA, does what it was always intended to do: protect citizens and small businesses against the limited resources of the Federal Government when they have to go to court.

This law was written to give individuals like our veterans, seniors, and small businesses a way to dispute unfair treatment by the government. However, the original intent of EAJA has been lost in a sea of habitual litigation, especially when it involves the management of our natural resources and our public lands and projects that bring much-needed jobs and tax revenues to local communities. Much of this litigation is awarded with millions of hard-earned taxpayer dollars. That is unacceptable.

In Montana, we have seen firsthand the consequences of some of this litigation. Montanans rely on healthy forests and rangelands for their livelihoods. Loggers, ranchers, miners, outfitters and guides, and others, rely on healthy land management to feed their families.

In recent decades, inflexible Federal policies and unrelenting appeals and lawsuits have imposed a huge administrative burden on our Federal agencies, limited our mills' access to timber, and ultimately resulted in the mismanagement of our forests, leaving our homes and businesses at risk for wildfire and crippling job growth in the timber industry.

In Montana, we used to have 30 sawmills. Today, we have just nine. Collaborative projects that the Montana

timber industry and conservation leaders have spent countless hours negotiating are sometimes stopped in court. True conservation is on-the-ground stewardship by hardworking individuals directly reliant on the land. It is not done in the courtroom.

At the very least, the American people ought to know how much of their hard-earned tax dollars are going towards these litigants and the information that led to their claims against the Federal agency. The Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act will provide that much-needed transparency which, hopefully, can limit these lawsuits and help save hundreds of American jobs.

I urge support for H.R. 2919.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I thank the gentleman from Ohio.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of the Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act, and I thank the gentlelady from Wyoming and the gentleman from Tennessee, my friend on the Judiciary Committee, for their hard work on this. Also, Mr. CHABOT.

There are a lot of times we get to disagree on things, but this is one we can come together and agree on. And that is a good thing for not only our committee, it is good for the American people.

The Equal Access to Justice Act supports one of our Nation's founding principles—equal justice under the law—by making our legal system more accessible for all Americans.

Today's bipartisan legislation simply ensures that Equal Access to Justice programs observe commonsense reporting and transparency requirements. This good government bill will ensure proper oversight of this program by providing both Congress and the public the data they need to make informed decisions.

The original Equal Access to Justice Act rightfully included tracking and reporting requirements concerning payments made under the authority of this law. Taxpayers should not be on the hook for untold amounts of attorneys' fees for special interest groups that sue the Federal Government to change policy without public input.

My constituents simply don't believe their hard-earned money should go to groups that push their agenda through litigation instead of the regular legislative process. Congress has a responsibility to ensure that the Federal Government is truly working on behalf of the Americans who fund it. The Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act will help ensure that the original law is working as Congress intended.

With greater transparency through reporting, the American people will have greater confidence that their tax dollars are being well spent.

I would like to thank again the sponsors for offering this. I am proud to be an original cosponsor on this.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, having no further speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2919.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4292 and H.R. 3584, as amended; and agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, in each case by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

FOREIGN CULTURAL EXCHANGE JURISDICTIONAL IMMUNITY CLARIFICATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4292) to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 388, nays 4, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 194]

YEAS—388

Amodei
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (IA)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley

Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)

NAYS—4

Amash
Ribble
Sanford
Stutzman

NOT VOTING—39

Aderholt
Bachmann
Blumenauer
Brooks (IN)
Butterfield
Campbell
Carson (IN)
Coble
Crawford
Deutch
Duffy
Ellmers
Gingrey (GA)
Granger
Griffin (AR)
Gutiérrez
Jones
Joyce
King (NY)
Kingston
Lankford
Lewis
McAllister
Messer
Miller, Gary
Murphy (FL)
Neal
Nunnelee
Payne
Pittenger
Richmond
Roby
Rohrabacher
Royce
Rush
Schwartz
Stockman
Waxman
Young (IN)

□ 1856

Mrs. CAPPS and Ms. SPEIER changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 194 I was stuck at the airport—flight delay. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CAPITAL ACCESS FOR SMALL COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PAULSEN). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3584) to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to authorize privately insured credit unions to become members of a Federal home loan bank, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 395, nays 0, not voting 36, as follows:

[Roll No. 195]

YEAS—395

Amash
Amodei
Bachus
Barber
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishek
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Broun (GA)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Cotton
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duckworth
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxx
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Gabbard
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia
Gardner
Garrett
Gerlach
Gibbs
Gibson
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gosar
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith (VA)
Grijalva
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Hanna
Harper
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Holding
Holt
Honda
Horsford
Hoyer
Hudson
Huelskamp
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurt
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Jordan
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Kuster
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney, Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Meng
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, George
Moore
Moran
Mullin
Mulvaney
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Negrete McLeod
Neugebauer
Noem
Nolan
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Owens
Palazzo
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (SC)
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tierney
Tipton
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—36

Aderholt
Bachmann
Blumenauer
Brooks (IN)
Butterfield
Campbell
Carson (IN)
Coble
Crawford
Deutch
Duffy
Ellmers
Gingrey (GA)
Granger
Griffin (AR)
Gutiérrez
Jones
Joyce
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Labrador
Lankford
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Messer
Miller, Gary
Murphy (FL)
Nunnelee
Pittenger
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Rush
Schwartz
Stockman
Waxman
Young (IN)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1904

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 195, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 253, nays 127, answered ''present'' 2, not voting 49, as follows:

[Roll No. 196]

YEAS—253

Amodei
Bachus
Barletta
Barr
Barrow (GA)
Barton
Beatty
Becerra
Bentivolio
Bera (CA)
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Bonamici
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Brown (FL)
Buchanan
Bustos
Byrne
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Cárdenas
Carney
Carter
Cartwright
Cassidy
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chu
Cicilline
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (NY)
Conaway
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Courtney
Cramer
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Daines
Davis (CA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Dent
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Enyart
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fincher
Fleischmann
Fortenberry
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallego
Gerlach
Gibbs
Goodlatte
Gosar
Grayson
Green, Al
Griffith (VA)
Grimm
Guthrie
Hahn
Hall
Hanabusa
Harris
Hartzler
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Higgins
Himes
Hinojosa
Honda
Horsford
Huelskamp
Huffman
Hultgren
Hurt
Issa
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Kaptur
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
Kline
Kuster
Labrador
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren
Long
Lowey
Lucas
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Maloney, Carolyn
Marchant
Marino
Massie
Matheson
Matsui
McAllister
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinley
McMorris Rodgers
McNerney
Meadows
Meehan
Meeks
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Mullin
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Noem
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pocan
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Quigley
Rangel
Rice (SC)
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rokita
Rooney
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Royce
Ruiz
Runyan
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sanford
Scalise
Schiff
Schneider
Schock
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Southerland
Speier
Stewart
Stutzman
Takano
Thornberry
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Vargas
Vela
Velázquez
Wagner
Walorski
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Webster (FL)
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Womack
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)

NAYS—127

Amash
Barber
Bass
Benishek
Brady (PA)
Broun (GA)
Brownley (CA)
Bucshon
Burgess
Capuano
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Coffman
Collins (GA)
Connolly
Costa
Cotton
Crowley
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
Denham
DeSantis
Duckworth
Fattah
Fitzpatrick
Fleming
Flores
Forbes
Foxx
Fudge
Garamendi
Garcia
Garrett
Gibson
Gowdy
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green, Gene
Hanna
Heck (NV)
Herrera Beutler
Holding
Hoyer
Hudson
Huizenga (MI)
Hunter
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins
Johnson (OH)
Jordan
Keating
Kilmer
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Lance
Langevin
Latta
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis
LoBiondo
Lowenthal
Lynch
Maffei
McDermott
McGovern
Miller (FL)
Miller, George
Moore
Mulvaney
Negrete McLeod
Nolan
Nugent
Palazzo
Pallone
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pearce
Perry
Peters (CA)
Peters (MI)
Peterson
Pitts
Poe (TX)
Price (GA)
Rahall
Reed
Reichert
Renacci
Ribble
Rigell
Rogers (AL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Sewell (AL)
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Stivers
Swalwell (CA)
Terry
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiberi
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Veasey
Visclosky
Walberg
Walden
Waters
Weber (TX)
Wittman
Woodall

ANSWERED ''PRESENT''—2

Gohmert
Owens

NOT VOTING—49

Aderholt
Bachmann
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Brooks (IN)
Butterfield
Campbell
Carson (IN)
Chaffetz
Coble
Crawford
Deutch
Duffy
Ellmers
Gardner
Gingrey (GA)
Granger
Griffin (AR)
Grijalva
Gutiérrez
Harper
Holt
Jones
Joyce
Kelly (IL)
King (NY)
Kingston
Lankford
Luetkemeyer
Maloney, Sean
Meng
Messer
Miller, Gary
Moran
Murphy (FL)
Nunnelee
Pascrell
Pittenger
Richmond
Rohrabacher
Rush
Schrader
Schwartz
Stockman
Van Hollen
Waxman
Welch
Wenstrup
Young (IN)

□ 1911

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN JIM OBERSTAR

(Mr. NOLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, today, I rise to pay tribute to a former colleague, son of a miner, who rose to become the esteemed and respected chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—the longest-serving Member of Congress from the great State of Minnesota—my predecessor, our dear friend, Congressman Jim Oberstar.

Jim passed away quite unexpectedly over the weekend. My wife and I and several other Members of the House here were just with him on Wednesday night, and Jim was as fit as a fiddle, as fit as he has ever been.

I commented to another couple there that Jim does 1,000 pushups every day, in addition to riding his bike; and Jim laughed and said: No, I only do 100 pushups every day.

He was a remarkable person.

I am joined here today by my colleagues from Minnesota—Congressman KLINE, Congresswoman MCCOLLUM, Congressmen PETERSON, WALZ, PAULSEN, and ELLISON—joining me in this brief tribute.

□ 1915

Mr. Speaker, Jim's respect in this House was really quite unparalleled. I recall one day last year when Jim came into the well of the House here and he was spotted by some of our colleagues. And someone started to applaud him, and the entire House burst into spontaneous applause—Democrats, Republicans, conservatives, liberals. The only time I had ever seen anything like that happen before was when Hubert Humphrey walked into the House of Representatives, when he was on his death bed.

Jim had just a giant intellect, spoke numerous languages. He had a big heart. He was a passionate public servant and a man of enormous accomplishment. There is no question our Nation is a truly better, more decent, more compassionate place for every day that he served so selflessly, with such honor and dignity and good humor. We loved him dearly, and we will miss him terribly.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that the House of Representatives observe a moment of silence to honor the incredible life of Chairman Jim Oberstar, our friend, our colleague.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Nurses Week, which is celebrated annually from May 6 through May 12.

Nurses all over the country serve as the first line of defense in the prevention of sickness and injury. From hospitals and care facilities to nurse's offices at schools and local businesses, nurses play an essential role in keeping our society healthy and safe.

From better educating our children about the importance of health to helping fathers and mothers better care for a newborn child, to helping seniors better manage disease or disability, our Nation's nurses are indispensable.

This year's National Nurses Week theme is ''Nurses: Leading the Way.'' During this National Nurses Week, we take time to give thanks to these professionals for doing just that: leading the way through the promotion and the work of bringing better care and better health to our friends and family and neighbors and loved ones.

NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

(Mr. GARCIA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of National Teacher Day, a day when we honor our teachers who contribute so much to our students, our schools, and our country.

I am pleased to recognize Myrna Betancourt, Miami-Dade's Teacher of the Year. She and other former Teachers of the Year like recipient Fred Ingram, who now leads the United Teachers of Dade, are shining examples of the kind of educators who find the best in their students.

My brother, Gaby, and his wife, Cathy, are both teachers who inspire every day with their dedication to their students. When I was a student, one of my own teachers, Pat Collins, helped fuel in me a passion for learning and kindled my lifelong commitment to public service.

All over the country teachers make a difference in the lives of their students every day. We owe them our deepest appreciation.

DEBBIE'S DREAM FOUNDATION: CURING STOMACH CANCER

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Debbie's Dream Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to advancing stomach cancer research, and it recently hosted its Fifth Annual Dream Makers Gala in my area in south Florida.

Each year, the event mobilizes efforts to fight stomach cancer, a disease that will be diagnosed in more than 22,000 Americans and kill almost 11,000 Americans this year alone. Although stomach cancer is the second most prevalent cancer killer worldwide, it receives the least amount of Federal funding for death of any type of cancer.

I was proud to lead a letter with my fellow Floridian colleague, LOIS FRANKEL, and 55 of our House colleagues to include stomach cancer in a list of cancers eligible for Department of Defense research funding.

Thanks to Debbie Zelman, her incredible team, and their determination and perseverance, we can help Debbie's Dream of curing stomach cancer a reality soon.

CONGRATULATING CALIFORNIA CHROME

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I stand on the House floor today to congratulate a star athlete from my district, an athlete who rose to the national spotlight with a remarkable win, with millions of people watching on TV and in front of a crowd of more than 160,000 people. I am talking of course about California Chrome, the winner of the 2014 Kentucky Derby.

California Chrome is a resident of Yuba City, where he lives with his human friends Perry and Denise Martin. The Martins bought California Chrome's mother for only $8,000, a bargain by horse racing standards. California Chrome's storybook rags-to-riches tale is sure to delight horse racing fans for years to come.

Congratulations, California Chrome, his jockey Victor Espinoza, and the Martin family. I know my family will be watching as you, California Chrome, aim to get one step closer to the Triple Crown at the Preakness on Saturday, May 17.

You have made California's Third Congressional District proud. Thank you, California Chrome.

RECOGNITION OF LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. ROONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lupus Awareness Month. As cochair of the Congressional Lupus Caucus, I am honored to help raise awareness of lupus throughout the month of May.

Lupus is a painful and devastating autoimmune disease. It is estimated that 1.5 million Americans are currently living with lupus. This disease is unpredictable, difficult to diagnose, challenging to treat, and especially hard to live with. Unfortunately, I understand these challenges all too well as my cousin Kathleen Rooney was diagnosed with lupus and died of the disease in her early thirties.

Years later, the cause of lupus is still unknown and a cure has yet to be found. With better understanding of the disease through recent research, we have developed new treatment methods that control symptoms and help to improve the quality of life for individuals living with lupus—but we still have a ways to go.

On behalf of Kathleen and those with lupus and those who have yet to be diagnosed, I urge my colleagues to support investments in research towards a cure for lupus.

I also ask my colleagues to join me in helping to educate and advocate and raise awareness for lupus during Lupus Awareness Month by wearing purple on May 16, ''Put on Purple Day.''

IN MEMORY OF BILLY FRANK, JR.

(Mr. HECK of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning quite suddenly Billy Frank, Jr., passed away.

Billy was chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. He was our region's foremost advocate for restoration of Indian fishing treaty rights, a dream he lived to realize. He was our region's foremost advocate for clean water for salmon.

So powerful was his advocacy, his charisma, his personality, his moral authority, that no fewer than two books have been written about him, and he was the recipient of the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Award.

They say a person dies twice: the first time, and the second time when they stop telling stories about him. Billy Frank is going to live forever. There are no words I can share, however, more powerful than his own. So, thanks to my friend Martha Kongsgaard who provided me with Billy's words recently, I share those now with you:

> I don't believe in magic, Billy once said. I believe in the Sun and the stars, the water, the tides, the floods, the owls, the hawks flying, the river running, and the wind talking. Their measurements, they tell us how healthy things are, how healthy we are, because we and they are the same. That is what I believe in.
>
> Those who learn to listen to the world that sustains them can hear the message brought forth by the salmon.

Thank you, dear friend, Billy. You shall forever be missed and forever remembered.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

(Mr. PERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support and recognition of Israel's Independence Day.

Israel is one of our closest allies in the Middle East, and for 66 years it has been the stronghold of democracy and a model for those who seek freedom and prosperity.

The success of the Jewish State makes it a target for oppressive regimes that seek the destruction of Western ideals, such as the advancement of women's rights.

Iran is chief among these threats. It has openly and repeatedly called for Israel's eradication. This threat may become a reality if Iran is allowed to obtain nuclear weapons. Mr. Speaker, we simply can't allow that to happen.

This administration must be clear-eyed in dealing with Iran, and it must do whatever is necessary to protect our vital interests in the region, including Israel.

With that, I offer my sincere congratulations to our Israeli friends on this 66th anniversary of their country's independence and wish them a very happy and prosperous Independence Day.

RECOGNIZING THE GREAT DEMOCRATIC JEWISH STATE OF ISRAEL

(Mr. VARGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to recognize the great democratic Jewish State of Israel, one of our strongest partners for peace and stability, for its 66 years of independence.

Since its founding on May 14, 1948, Israel has been a beacon of democracy and prosperity and America's stalwart ally in the often tumultuous Middle East.

As the historic home of the Jewish people, Israel has stood for hope in the face of persecution, freedom from oppression, and opportunity for its diverse population.

We were the first nation to recognize Israel's independence, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue building stronger bonds between the United States and Israel.

I am fully committed to our special relationship, which is based upon our shared values and common interests. Mr. Speaker, on this joyous day, I am honored to congratulate Israel on its 66th Independence Day.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, May is Mental Health Month, a month where we step up our efforts to raise awareness for mental health and work to remove the stigma of seeking help for mental illness.

This issue is very close to my heart, as I worked in the New York State Assembly to pass Timothy's Law, which provides parity in mental health coverage in my home State.

We work in a very divided environment here, Mr. Speaker, in Washington, but one of the few things I believe we can all agree on is the need to focus more on individuals and families that struggle with mental illness. That means providing better resources, more robust programs, enhanced coordination, and a more comprehensive mental health national program.

Mental illness affects all ages, all races, tax brackets, and political ideologies, and our response to mental illness must be as comprehensive as the group of people it affects. We can only do this by joining together, reflecting in our budget our commitment to overcoming the challenges mental illnesses pose, and passing the Strengthening Mental Health in Our Communities Act, legislation that my colleagues and I introduced just today.

□ 1930

IN MEMORY OF JAMES OBERSTAR

(Ms. BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as I rise today, I am terribly, terribly saddened by the news of the passing of my very close friend and former colleague, Congressman James Oberstar. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, Jean, his children, and grandchildren.

Mr. Oberstar was a true ''transportation guru.'' There was no one in Washington and most likely in the entire world who knew more about transportation than Chairman Oberstar. And he could tell you about it in several different languages.

For 36 years, Congressman Oberstar served the people of Minnesota's Eighth. I traveled on many codels with Mr. Oberstar, including a trip to Haiti, where he taught English there at the U.S. Embassy early in his career. I remember being so impressed not just by the amount of knowledge he had about Haiti, its history, politics, and infrastructure, but that he spoke French as well as in Haitian.

In closing, I take from the Bible: Mr. Oberstar has fought a good fight, he has run the race, he has finished his work, he has done a great job. God has blessed America by giving us Mr. James Oberstar.

HONORING ISRAEL'S 66TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESANTIS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, tonight's Special Order is meant to honor Israel's 66th Independence Day. Last year, I also had the honor of leading a similar Special Order.

Much is made about the contention in the United States Congress. Therefore, it pleases me to say that the security of Israel remains bipartisan in every aspect. I have a number of Members with us tonight who I will yield my time to to celebrate this wonderful occasion.

First, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), my colleague, a distinguished member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding, and I thank the gentlelady for her passionate support of the State of Israel. It has been an honor to serve with you on the Foreign Affairs Committee and to be an active member of the Jewish Caucus here in the House.

I rise today to celebrate 66 years of independence by the State of Israel and 66 years of lasting friendship between our two nations.

On May 14, 1948, under the leadership of future Israeli Prime Minister David-Ben Gurion, Jewish leaders established the State of Israel. At that time, President Harry Truman recognized the new state and sent a strong message to countries throughout the Middle East and the world that Israel would not face its future challenges alone.

Since that time, Israel has thrived and become a strong democracy. Today, our two nations remain closely aligned as a result of our shared values and common interests. During these 66 years Israel has overcome many difficult challenges and the continued existence of a Jewish state is a testament to the will and strength of the people of Israel.

As we reflect on the achievements of this great country, we must also remember its modern beginnings. Israel was established as a safe haven for the Jewish people who survived centuries of persecution and oppression.

Today, the people of Israel continue to face many threats to their way of life and to their country. There are those who believe violence is the solution to resolving their differences with the State of Israel.

But to promote security throughout this region, what the Middle East really needs is stability and peace. I want to take a moment to commend our President, President Obama, and Secretary of State John Kerry for their commitment to securing a lasting peace and their work toward achieving that goal.

On the 66th anniversary of the establishment of Israel, we strongly affirm our commitment to Israel as both a friend and ally, and double down on our efforts to bring peace to this region of the world. As President Truman so eloquently noted: Israel has ''a glorious future before it, not just as another sovereign nation, but as an embodiment of the great ideals of our civilization.''

I know we have all had the opportunity to visit Israel and to see firsthand the success of this democracy and the prosperity of this country surviving and thriving in a very difficult neighborhood. It has been a great honor to be here in Congress and to continue to support the relationship between our two great countries, but to really honor the success of 66 years of independence of a country that shares our values, that continues to be an example to the world of a great democracy.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. I thank the gentleman from Rhode Island for your articulate and passionate remarks.

Now it gives me great pleasure to yield to the very distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS), another colleague of mine on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership and

truly for this time where we have come together to not only celebrate the 66th anniversary of Israel, but a time of remembrance.

As important as a celebration may be each and every year, we must reflect back on what brought this Nation to be. It was really rooted many years prior to its birth in unbelievable tragedy, grief, oppression, when almost 7 million Jews—moms, dads, sons and daughters, husbands and wives—were killed and terminated in a way that many of us can only try to grasp why that could have possibly happened in this world.

Yet today, we see that the antisemitic rhetoric throughout much of Europe has grown to levels that we have not seen since those days of Hitler. So we must take this day and every day to make sure that we voice not only our support for Israel, but our support for a Jewish nation in which America enjoys a great partnership and friendship, but truly an unyielding resolve of brotherly affection.

So today, I thank the gentlewoman for her time and allowing me to speak on this particular issue. But it is important that we remember that even though there was years ago a great tragedy, that today if we do not speak up that things can continue to happen and be a downward spiral, for right at this moment as we speak there are some 100,000 missiles aimed at Israel.

We can live in relative peace and comfort here in America, yet in cities and neighborhoods all across Israel they have to live in fear of a siren going off and a missile perhaps coming in. Yet, it is this partnership and friendship that we have with Israel that must remain solid and be strong.

We have a country that is some 10,000 square miles in Israel, surrounded by 5.2 million square miles of oil-rich country. Yet Israel has no iron, no gold, no silver, no lead, no oil to speak of, and yet over and over again she is attacked. And so you have to ask yourself, why? Why is it that so many people call Israel the aggressor when the missiles are aimed towards her?

I stand today to not only thank the gentlewoman for her time, but also to acknowledge the greatness of Israel, our friendship that is unyielding, and to say Happy 66th Independence Day.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Thank you, Mr. MEADOWS, for your very moving comments. I appreciate you being here with us tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield to the gentleman from California, Mr. ALAN LOWENTHAL, another one of my distinguished colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee and a fellow first-term Member whom I had the honor of traveling to Israel with our freshman class.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida for inviting me. I too was moved by the speech and the talking from my dear friend and colleague from North Carolina.

As we know, 66 years ago, with the darkness of the Holocaust still fresh in all of our minds, the State of Israel was born as a shining beacon of freedom and democracy.

I was born just as the Second World War was beginning. I remember when the State of Israel was founded. My family, my mother, was an immigrant; my father was the first of his family to be born in the United States from immigrant parents. Now I am so proud to be here as a Member of the House of Representatives and to recognize also that my country was the first nation to recognize Israel.

Since 1948, and as I can say, there was such great pride I took when Israel fought its war of independence, when Israel became a state, and Israel has persevered against great threats both large and small while at the same time building a dynamic, thriving, and innovative economy.

Today, we are so proud of our unbreakable bonds with Israel, built upon our common foundation of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Israel is without question the United States' closest ally in the Middle East and most likely our closest ally throughout the world. The people of Israel continue to be a symbol of democratic courage in the Middle East and throughout the world.

As I remember and we recall the independence and the founding of the State of Israel 66 years ago, I am reminded of the words of President John F. Kennedy, who said:

> Israel was not created in order to disappear. Israel will endure and flourish. It is the child of hope and home of the brave. It can neither be broken by adversity nor demoralized by success. It carries the shield of democracy and it honors the sword of freedom.

Happy Independence Day—Yom Ha'atzmaut Sameach.

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Thank you, Mr. LOWENTHAL, for your very heartfelt comments.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Israel commemorated Memorial Day to honor the memory of more than 24,000 Israeli men, women, and children who have been killed in terror attacks and wars over the past 66 years.

Immediately following Memorial Day Israel transitioned to Independence Day, when Israelis and Jews across the globe celebrate the modern-day revival of the State of Israel. This abrupt transition from the solemn Memorial Day to the celebration of Independence Day embodies the Israel and Jewish narrative of resilience in the face of adversity. We recognize our suffering while we appreciate our survival.

Mr. Speaker, as commented by my colleagues who preceded me, the importance of Israel as our best ally in a very unstable region is so significant in this United States Congress that each year the first-term Members take a tour of Israel. We visit leaders and members of civil society. I was honored to be on that trip this summer.

When we visited Israel, we saw a nation at the forefront of innovation, science, and technology, a country where booming modernity sits side by side in stark contrast with ancient history.

□ 1945

Sixty-six years ago, Israel began as a modest nation of 800,000 people, fighting for its very survival. Today, Israel's population stands at well over 8 million. It is a thriving, liberal democracy, the homeland for the Jewish people, a global economic and high-tech powerhouse, and it maintains the region's most powerful military force; yet, as my colleagues mentioned, Israel still faces threats.

For anyone who has ever been to the small Middle Eastern country, you are immediately struck by the proximity of unfriendly or unstable neighbors; the border with Syria, where war has ravaged the country for years, threatening to destabilize the surrounding region; the border with Egypt, where the largest Arab nation faces great uncertainty; then the border with Gaza from an Israeli kibbutz that suffered thousands of rocket attacks. We witnessed, ourselves, how the good people live in fear each day.

Of course, there is the perpetual threat of a nuclear-armed Iran. For Israel, an Iran armed with nuclear weapons represents an unimaginable threat. Without even firing a single weapon, Iran would be able to extend its nuclear umbrella to its terrorist proxies across the globe, including to Hamas and Hezbollah, sitting on Israel's doorstep.

Even more terrifying, we would see a proliferation of nuclear arsenals throughout the region; yet, even in the face of these threats, Israelis remain optimistic for their future and proud of their national identity. So, tonight, I want to say that we are proud as Israeli allies, and we join them in celebrating their 66th year of independence.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to share the story of one of my constituents. His name is Aron Bell. He is 85 years old, and he is a proud Jewish American resident of Palm Beach County. Today, he is celebrating Israeli Independence Day, but this is more than just a celebration for him; it is a memory.

Aron Bell was born Aron Bielski. For those of you who may have seen Daniel Craig's blockbuster movie ''Defiance,'' you are familiar with the Bielski brothers—the Jewish partisans who saved over 1,000 Jews from death camps by building a village of defiance in the forest of Nazi-occupied Poland. Aron was the youngest of these brothers depicted in the film.

After his traumatic survival during World War II, Aron emigrated to the British Mandate for Palestine, having witnessed the horrors of the Holocaust and having understood the increased urgency for Jewish self-determination.

In 1948, when Israel declared its independence and was immediately attacked by five surrounding Arab nations, Aron fought in order to protect the Israelis' dream of independence.

Aron's journey, though remarkable, is not unique. The story of the Jewish people is riddled with triumph and tragedy. Israel's national anthem, called Hatikvah—meaning ''the hope''—sings of the 2,000-year-old dream to be free in a land of our own. After centuries of pogroms, inquisitions, and genocide, the dream has been realized in the establishment of the State of Israel.

I know I speak for my colleagues on both sides of the aisle tonight when I say we celebrate the independence—the birth—of the great State of Israel; and we are here to protect and secure Israel for eternity.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the State of Israel's Sixty-Sixth year of independence.

As the grandson of a Holocaust survivor, I understand the importance of a Jewish state as both a democratic society and a refuge of culture and heritage. I am proud to celebrate its continued success.

The spirit of Israel is as strong today as it was in 1948 when Great Britain's mandate expired and a new nation was born. Its people continue to seek academic advancement, participate in international commerce, and support the arts. All this, while managing threats to its security.

My respect for this nation and its people is great. Having traveled to Israel I observed the reality of bomb children's recreation center. As a father I cannot grasp the chilling fear of wondering if it's okay for my kids to play today or if they need to go to the reinforced recreation center. The fear of becoming yet another victim to terrorism while riding a bus or eating in a café could be enough to bring stagnation to a bustling economy. However, not in Israel. Its people rally in the name of freedom and out of the hope for a lasting peace. Their economy—and their nation are strong.

Sixty-six years following its declaration of independence, Israel has grown into a strategic ally of the United States. Our nation's commitment to its economy, defense, and people are critically important.

I look forward to continuing to support Israel and am again happy to join my colleagues in celebrating its independence.

Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support and recognition of the sixty-sixth anniversary of Israel's independence and to honor a country that has made huge strides since its independence in 1948. As the only true democracy in the Middle East, America and Israel share so much. We both celebrate democracy and freedom. We feel an obligation to make the world a better place for all people.

The United States has considered the existence of Israel a profound moral and spiritual imperative and was the first Nation to recognize the State of Israel. Israel's security is of paramount importance, and our support for that security is unbreakable. We should take this occasion to reinforce our bond and renew our commitment to end tyranny and protect democracy.

On the anniversary of its independence, the United States commends the nation of Israel as it pursues peace and security for its people.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate and thank Congresswoman LOIS FRANKEL for organizing this special order to recognize the significance of Israel's Independence at the kind invitation of Linda Kline.

I was pleased to join Rabbi Jean Eglinton of B'Nai Sholom Congregation; Senior Pastor Chuck Lawrence of Christ Temple Church; Martin Greenberg, executive director for the Network of Independent Communities for the Jewish Federations of North America; Rabbi Victor Urecki of B'Nai Jacob Congregation; and, City of Huntington, West Virginia, Mayor Steve Williams for the 4th Annual West Virginia Israel Independence Celebration at Pullman Square, Huntington, West Virginia on Sunday, May 4, 2014. I was pleased to deliver the following remarks:

In a State where the official motto is, ''Mountaineers are always free,'' we cherish independence as much as anyone. And while we are the first to lend a hand to a neighbor in need, we admire independence in others. All that West Virginia independence, some would suggest, is rooted in the rugged living our mountains impose upon us. But I think it might just run a little deeper than that.

We all know the story of America's Independence Day, July 4th 1776. But on that same day, the Continental Congress passed a lesser known resolution appointing to another committee three of the men who had just helped to draft the Declaration of Independence. Their task was to design a seal for the newly formed United States of America. Two of those men, Dr. Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, spent considerable time over the next five weeks working on designs that included the story of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt.

Franklin's design incorporated Moses standing on the shore, extending his hand over the sea, beckoning Pharaoh's demise. Jefferson's depicted the Israelis in the wilderness, led by a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

From our earliest beginnings, our roots have run deep with Israel and the Jewish people. And that includes our country's Judeo-Christian heritage that is so deeply engrained in us. It shines especially bright in America's spirited independence.

So, we quite naturally welcome the opportunity to join in celebrating Israel's Independence Day.

But there is more to celebrate today than history and heritage. In today's world, practical realities have to take first order. The simple fact is that Israel is America's strongest, most dependable ally in the Middle East. And as I have said, time and again, a stable Middle East is in the long-term best interests of the United States.

Israel's security is paramount to that regional stability. Syria's domestic chaos and tragic loss of innocent lives; the uncertainty of a volatile nuclear threat from nearby Iran; the continual threat of terrorist organizations infiltrating and working their will in country after country; all these call for our constant vigilance as a strong partner in Israel's security needs.

That's why I have cosponsored and strongly supported heavy sanctions against Iran and its nuclear weapons advancement. That's why I have supported defensive tools for Israel like the Iron Dome program. And that's why I have co-sponsored and strongly supported the United States-Israel Strategic Partnership Act to foster the close alliance we have enjoyed with Israel over the decades.

Today's anniversary of Israel's independence is a good time to review and re-assess our partnership. Clearly, Israel has earned its seat at the table with the independent nations of the world. And she has done so as a strong U.S. ally. It is incumbent upon our leaders to return that respect and confidence.

As a world leader, we have a tremendous responsibility to actively help bring long-term peace to the Middle East. That must always include a free and independent state of Israel. America's interaction in the region must reflect the maturity of our place among other Nation states as a seasoned and substantial diplomatic leader.

My bottom line to any administration and to my colleagues in the Congress is that the U.S. must be a positive presence in the Middle East. This is in our and Israel's best interests. That requires the utmost care in both the words we use and the deeds we employ to maintain that positive presence.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Jewish state of Israel on the 66th anniversary of its declaration of independence, Yom Ha'atzmaut. For 66 years, Israel has not only defied all odds to survive in the face of existential threats, but it has transformed from a country of agricultural pioneers into the high-tech powerhouse that it is today.

For 66 years, the United States has had a special friend and steadfast ally in Israel, dating back to when President Harry Truman first recognized the State of Israel just 11 minutes after it had declared independence. Since that time, Israel has become an indispensable for security cooperation and scientific and technological research.

Israel is a beacon of democracy and freedom in a region where both are far too scarce. Israeli citizens of all stripes, including its many minorities, enjoy extensive personal freedoms and thrive in every aspect of society, from the military to the Knesset.

In these uncertain times in the Middle East and North Africa, Israel seems surrounded by chaos. On its southern border, Israel must rely on Egypt, a country grappling with a rocky transition to democracy, to intercept the weapons smuggling into the Hamas-run extremist hub of the Gaza Strip. To the North, in Lebanon, Hezbollah continues to amass its arsenal of long-range missiles capable of hitting all major cities in Israel and promises future war. In Syria, the ongoing civil war remains a source of instability and uncertainty for the entire region, empowering terrorist groups on both sides of the conflict. The Palestinian Authority's decision to reconcile with Hamas, a faction that continues to call for Israel's destruction, has undermined any progress made during recent U.S.-led peace negotiations. And despite the interim agreement with world powers, Iran's illicit nuclear program will remain an existential threat to Israel until the day a final, verifiable agreement is reached that removes the possibility of a nuclear Iran.

After years of terrorist attacks, war, and regional instability knocking on its doorsteps, Israel continues to persevere with remarkable poise. Israel has become a leader in technology and science, and its society prospers.

There is much to be proud of on this Yom Hàatzmaut.

As Israel prepares to make difficult decisions about peace and security, it should know that the United States' commitment to the Jewish state is unshakeable.

I join my colleagues in wishing the people and government of Israel a Chag Sameach, a happy holiday on this 66th Independence Day.

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my dear friend and colleague, Ms. FRANKEL, for a wonderful presentation.

I know, in having traveled with Congresswoman FRANKEL, that we share a great respect and admiration for the nation of Israel, and we should be the best friend Israel has in the world because they believe in the things we do, in the same values.

Where else in the Middle East do people get to vote, whether you are Muslim, Jewish, Christian, except in Israel? If you are a woman, where are you respected and given the full rights that men have, except for in Israel? Where in the Middle East are homosexuals not persecuted and even killed?

We ought to be Israel's best friend in the world; and I am very concerned that, at times, it feels like we may not be. So I join my friend in wanting to do everything we can to shore up that relationship with Israel, and I thank her for her dedication.

I also believe firmly that it is true that those who bless Israel seem to end up being blessed. Go figure. So I am grateful for that presentation.

Mr. Speaker, I did want to answer or attempt to answer a question that I have been asked many times about media reporting and presentations and why some stories get covered by the mainstream media, particularly by the three main networks for broadcast television and CNN and MSNBC as well.

I saw a chart that was put together by a group, called the Minority Report, but I wasn't as interested in the group as I was in finding out if the relationships set forth in the chart were actually accurate, so I had my staff help me. Let's find out. Is this chart really accurate? I was really staggered by what was in the chart.

This is not the entire chart, but it is most of it. Their chart was entitled, ''Keeping It in the Family,'' and it was very interesting.

As you see the chart here, at CNN, the vice president and deputy bureau chief in Washington is Virginia Moseley, who is married to Tom Nides, who is the former Deputy Secretary of State under Hillary Clinton, the former Secretary of State.

You have Bianna Golodryga, married to Peter Orszag, who was the former Director of the Office of Management and Budget under the Obama administration. You have Ben Sherwood, and he is the brother of Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall, who is the former adviser to JOE BIDEN and also an adviser to the President.

At ABC News, you have Ian Cameron, who is the former executive producer of ''This Week,'' and he is married to someone named Susan Rice, who, obviously, was the National Security Advisor to the President before she went to the U.N.

You have Claire Shipman, who is married to someone named Jay Carney. Claire Shipman is a correspondent with ABC News. Then you have Matthew Jaffe, who is married to Katie Hogan. Katie Hogan was the Deputy Press Secretary for President Obama's 2012 reelection campaign; and she is the spokesperson for Organizing for Action, OFA, which is working hard, apparently, to turn Texas blue, as they say. Anyway, Matthew Jaffe is a reporter with ABC News.

Then not to leave out NBC News, you have Robert Gibbs, the former White House Press Secretary for President Obama. You have him as a contributor to NBC News. You have the former senior adviser to the President, David Axelrod, who is known for the massive and important advice he has given to President Obama as a senior political analyst for MSNBC.

Oh, we don't want to forget, over here, CBS News. You have the president of CBS News, who is David Rhodes. David Rhodes is akin to—is the brother of—Ben Rhodes, who is the person who coined the phrase ''kinetic military action,'' instead of using the word ''war.''

He coordinated the edits, apparently, of the Benghazi talking points, and of course, he had a great deal to do with what was done in Libya by this administration and the way that was discussed with the media.

So it is not necessarily surprising that Sharyl Attkisson ran into the buzz saw she did at CBS News when the president of CBS News is the brother of someone who was helping pull the strings at the White House.

In fact, some of the articles that were pulled to point out some of these relationships—an article by Ed Morrissey on April 29 of 2014 talked about the newly released White House email, which shows that the Rice talking points on Benghazi were politically motivated.

It says, in part, in the article:

> The YouTube story was designed to distract from ''policy failures,'' according to Barack Obama's aide Ben Rhodes—or the brother to the president of CBS News.

Then it goes on to set out part of Mr. Ben Rhode's email, and he says in the email, Ben Rhodes does—the brother of David Rhodes, the president of CBS News:

> To convey that the United States is doing everything that we can to protect our people and facilities abroad; to underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video and not a broader failure of policy; to show that we will be resolute in bringing people who harm Americans to justice and standing steadfast through these protests; to reinforce the President and administration's strength and steadiness in dealing with difficult challenges.

On the toplines, he says:

> Since we began to see protests in response to this Internet video, the President has directed the administration to take a number of steps. His top priority has been the safety and security of all Americans serving abroad.

Indeed, that was exactly what people in the administration were saying. That was what the people at CBS News were parroting. Since that came from the brother of the CBS News president, that seems to have worked pretty effectively.

There is another article here, ''Worldly at 35, and Shaping Obama's Voice.'' It was an article in The New York Times in March of 2013 by Mark Landler.

It says:

> As President Obama prepares to visit Israel next week, he is turning, as he often does, to Benjamin J. Rhodes, a 35-year-old Deputy National Security Advisor with a soft voice, strong opinions, and a reputation around the White House as the man who channels Mr. Obama on foreign policy.

□ 2000

Mr. Rhodes is drafting the address to the Israeli people the President plans to give in Jerusalem. But his influence extends beyond what either his title or speech-writing duties suggest. Drawing on personal ties and a philosophical kinship with Mr. Obama that go back to the 2008 campaign, Mr. Rhodes helped prod his boss to take a more activist policy toward Egypt and Libya when those countries erupted in 2011.

On further in the article it points out:

> Two years ago, when protesters thronged Tahrir Square in Cairo, Mr. Rhodes urged Mr. Obama to withdraw three decades of American support for President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. A few months later, Mr. Rhodes was among those agitating for the President to back a NATO military intervention in Libya to head off a slaughter by Colonel Muammar Qaddafi.

Further down in the article it says:

> At the White House, Mr. Rhodes first came to prominence after he wrote Mr. Obama's landmark address to the Muslim world in Cairo in June, 2009. The speech was notable for Mr. Obama's assertion that governments should ''reflect the will of the people,'' prefiguring his policy in dealing with Mr. Mubarak and Colonel Qaddafi.

Another article from March of 2011 by Rick Moran. It starts out with a reference to Alice in Wonderland, when Rick Moran says:

> A ''war'' is a war, is a ''war,'' right? Not if you live in the Rabbit Hole and have to answer to Alice—

talking about Alice in Wonderland—

> as Commander in Chief.

But Byron York is quoted—and I take it this was an article by Byron York inserted in Mr. Moran's piece—and says:

In the last few days, Obama administration officials have frequently faced the question: Is the fighting in Libya a war? For military officers to White House spokesmen up to the President himself, the answer is ''no.'' But that leaves the question: What is it?

In a briefing onboard Air Force One Wednesday, Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes—

Again, this is 2011—

—took a crack at an answer. ''I think what we are doing is enforcing a resolution that has a very clear set of goals, which is protecting the Libyan people, averting a humanitarian crisis, and setting up a no-fly zone,'' Rhodes said. ''Obviously, that involves kinetic military action, particularly on the front end.''

That came from Ben Rhodes.

And then Mr. Moran's article says:

What we are doing in Libya is making war, whether the Obama administration admits it or not. People aren't getting killed by ''kinetic'' anything. They are dying the old-fashioned way—they are getting blown up.

This gives a whole new meaning to ''KIA.''

Another article from Patrick Howley from May 11, 2013, entitled, ''Top Obama Official's Brother is President of CBS News, May Drop Reporter Over Benghazi Coverage.''

It says:

The brother of a top Obama administration official is also the president of CBS News, and the network may be days away from dropping one of its top investigative reporters for covering the administration's scandals too aggressively.

Down further it says:

That reporting revealed that President Obama's Deputy National Security Advisor, Ben Rhodes—brother of CBS News president David Rhodes—was instrumental in changing the talking points in September, 2012.

The article further down says more about Mr. Rhodes being a 35-year-old New York native; David Rhodes, president of CBS news since 2011.

So it is rather amazing, but it should be more clear to people. People wonder why the mainstream gives such favorable coverage to the Obama administration. Well, blood is thicker than water, is one saying.

In the case of our mainstream media, they totally dropped the ball on Benghazi and continue to report on anything else they can besides Benghazi.

I am very grateful that the mainstream media on the left and right back in the seventies did not drop the Watergate investigation. They stayed on it until the truth came out. Back in those days, the mainstream media was so important to protecting our freedom and protecting Americans from a President who had an enemies' list and protecting America from a President that seemed a bit paranoid at times.

A man, a fellow Christian and an amazing man of faith after his conversion during the Watergate investigation, Chuck Colson, talked in his book, ''Born Again'' about how after the Kent State debacle and students were killed, it turned basically into a bunker at the White House. It was ''we'' against ''they,'' and if you were critical at all, you didn't deserve to be in the bunker. You were an enemy.

We are very fortunate that when a President begins to have that kind of mentality and so afraid of anybody who is critical, we are fortunate he did not understand just how far a President, how far an administration could push the IRS into going after political enemies, as we have now seen that it has.

Whether or not the IRS's weaponization was before the 2012 election, the President had a call to arms right here in front of the House and the Senate and the Cabinet members, Joint Chiefs of Staff and Supreme Court, sitting right here, when he mistakenly asserted what he believed were facts about the Citizens United ruling by the Supreme Court, and it was so wrong, to the point that Justice Alito sat right here just feet away from where I am standing, shaking his head and saying, Not true, not true, not true.

Nonetheless, people at the IRS heard the call. They paid attention. And they came to understand that maybe the Supreme Court says conservatives can run ads and get involved in political issues like union groups do, but maybe we can stop them. And they effectively did that by putting their investigations into their tax status on hold and refusing to give them any kind of decision until well after the 2012 election, thereby silencing those voices.

I have had reporters who obviously don't understand the Tax Code and the power of the IRS say, Well, what difference does it make? Those groups probably shouldn't have been applying for tax status like they were anyway. Obviously, showing the ignorance of the reporters when they ask such questions. Because the way the Internal Revenue Code is set up, if someone in the general population just decides I want to get a bunch of friends together who have political beliefs like I do and we are going to pool our money together and then we are going to start spending it on issues to educate the American public, and somebody has got to account for all that money, you don't want the IRS coming after you as you accumulate money to spend on political education of America.

So you have to go begging to the IRS for the proper designation so that you can go about gathering money without them coming against you as being a single individual raising money to spend on political issues.

That also, Mr. Speaker, is one of the reasons why we need to throw out the Internal Revenue Code. Just pass a bill that says as of a certain date the Internal Revenue Code will be totally void, and that gives us a deadline to shoot for.

I like the idea of a flat tax. There are people that I love and respect that think a fair tax is a better way to go. But by scrapping the Internal Revenue Code, throwing it out on a date certain, then we would only have so long to get a new Tax Code figured out. We would be serving notice to people that that is when it would change.

I have heard our President say so many times that people need to pay their fair share. Well, it doesn't look like that is ever going to happen until we have a flat tax, where if you make more, you pay more; you make less, you pay less. That is what we ought to be doing.

Anyway, as a result, we have an IRS that became weaponized on behalf of one political party and one administration. And we do need a special prosecutor. I have been pointing that out for quite some time. There are criminals laws that may have been violated. That is why we need a special prosecutor, not the Justice Department. We have seen their kind of ''just us'' rather than ''justice.''

We need a special prosecutor that is not appointed by Eric Holder. We need to get to the bottom of who violated the law. Because it appears laws were broken.

But some wonder why the mainstream media doesn't get into the IRS weaponization more. We see the familial relationships between the mainstream media—not that I am saying CNN and MSNBC on the extreme left are mainstream media, but they are part of the media who avoids reporting anything negative about this President. Well, you hate to report things negative on your own family. So that is understandable.

So, Mr. Speaker, it explains a lot, once you begin to see all of the marriages and all of the sibling relationships between this administration and people in the media—siblings in the media—people calling the shots and giving the advice in our major news media.

Mr. Speaker, we also sometimes are a little surprised as the mainstream media tries to desperately change the subject from the false reports and statements that were made about Benghazi and the coverup that we are now finding out about Benghazi. They are constantly trying to change the subject, in their desperation to protect their familial relationships in the administration.

I had a call today wanting me to come on the news tomorrow and talk about climate change. It used to be called global warming until people realized, wow, it is not really warming anything very serious, so we better start calling it climate change. And as any real scientists know, when you come up with a scientific theory, then there are certain facts that will prove your theory or your assertion. But when we talk about climate change, people are not doing that.

□ 2015

Whatever happens, if there are a lot of tornados, they say: see, it is climate change. If there are very few tornados, they say: see, it is climate change. If we have numerous hurricanes, they say: see, it is climate change. If there are not many hurricanes, they say: see, it is climate change.

No matter what happens in the weather, we are told it is climate change. The truth is I believe in climate change. I not only believe in climate change, I know it is happening, usually, most places, four times a year. They are called seasons.

Then we have climate changing—I will never forget, back in the midseventies, there was a cover of one of the main American magazines about how we were approaching—heading into a new ice age. I thought, well, that doesn't make sense. I do believe the Bible, and I don't believe the world is going to end in ice.

That just doesn't seem right, yet we heard scientists telling us: oh, no, we are at the beginning of a new ice age in the mid-1970s. We are at the beginning of a new ice age.

They were wanting to change everything we were doing. Oh, we have got to change everything we are doing about power, about fossil fuels, everything because we are at the beginning of a new ice age. About 10 years later, people saw: well, we may be slightly warming, so we had better quit talking about global cooling, and now, we are talking about global warming.

There is an interesting article that came out today from Mario Lewis entitled, ''National Climate Assessment report: Alarmists offer untrue, unrelenting doom and gloom.''

This article today says:

Tuesday, the U.S. Government's Global Change Research Program released its latest ''National Assessment'' report on climate change impacts in the United States.

As with previous editions, the new report is an alarmist document designed to scare people and build political support for unpopular policies such as carbon taxes, cap-and-trade, and EPA regulatory mandates.

Also in keeping with past practice, the latest report confuses climate risk with climate change risk.

Droughts, storms, floods, and heat waves are all part of the natural climate. Our risk of exposure to such extremes has much more to do with where we happen to live than with any gradual climate changes associated with the 1.3 degree Fahrenheit to 1.9 degree Fahrenheit increase in average U.S. temperature since the 1880s.

Since even immediate and total shutdown of all carbon dioxide-emitting vehicles, power plants, and factories in the U.S. would decrease global warming by only a hypothetical and undetectable two-tenths of a degree Celsius by 2100—

Eighty-five years, even if they got everything they wanted for 85 years, the article says:

It is misleading to imply, as the report does, that the Obama administration's climate policies can provide any measurable protection from extreme weather events.

The assessment is flatout wrong that climate change is increasing our vulnerability to heat stress. As hot weather has become more frequent, people and communities have adapted to it, and heat-related mortality in the U.S. has declined.

Cities with the most frequent hot weather, such as Tampa; Florida; and Phoenix, Arizona, have practically zero heat-related mortality. That is the most probable future for most U.S. cities if global warming continues.

The report also foolishly predicts that climate change ''intensify air pollution.'' As EPA's own data show, despite allegedly ''unprecedented'' warming, the U.S. air quality has improved decade by decade since 1970 as emissions declined.

The report blames climate change for the Midwest drought of 2012, but the government's own analysis concluded otherwise: ''Neither ocean states nor human-induced climate change, factors that can provide long-lead predictability, appeared to play significant roles in causing severe rainfall deficits over the major corn-producing regions of central Great Plains.''

This assessment ignores substantial data and research, finding no long-term increase in the strength and frequency of tropical cyclones and no trend in extreme weather-related damages once losses are ''normalized'' or adjusted for changes in population, wealth, and consumer price index.

For example, the report says trends in the frequency and intensity of tornadoes are ''uncertain,'' whereas, in fact, there is no trend, and a new study by University of Colorado Professor Roger Pielke, Jr., finds ''with some certainty'' that ''the number of years with very large tornado losses has actually decreased'' during 1993–2013 compared to 1950–1970.

Similarly, the U.S. is currently in the longest period on record with no major category 3–5 hurricane landfalls.

This good news is not included in the report.

The assessment gives short shrift to the warming ''pause,'' which it calls ''short-term.'' In the assessment, the ''pause'' is depicted as running from 1998 through 2012. That is 15 years. In fact, the pause is now 17 years and 8 months long.

More tellingly, the assessment does not discuss the growing divergence between climate model predictions and observations.

The divergence, now in its 34th year and accelerating due to the pause, raises questions about the climate sensitivity assumptions on which dire climate change scenarios depend. Climate sensitivity is an estimate of how much warming will eventually result from a doubling of atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations relative to preindustrial levels.

In its discussion of sensitivity, the assessment basically endorses the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2007 ''likely'' sensitivity range of 3.6 to 8.1 degrees Fahrenheit and ''best estimate'' of 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit. It neglects to mention that, partly due to the pause and model overshoot of observed temperatures, the IPCC's 2013 report lowered the bottom end of the likely range and declined to offer a ''best'' estimate.

More importantly, the assessment presents the debate over climate sensitivity as a ''he said, she said,'' as if a single paper by John Fasullo and Kevin Trenberth balances out some 16 recent papers indicating that the IPCC climate sensitivity estimates are too hot.

In other words, they are just wrong. The article says:

So despite an occasional fig leaf to hide the nakedness of its alarm message, the report does acknowledge that climate change has lengthened growing seasons, helping to make food more abundant and affordable, the assessment is unrelenting gloom and doom.

Its only hopeful message is that it's not too late to implement Kyoto-style climate policies.

Sorry, that's not good enough even for government work.

Mario Lewis is a Ph.D., a senior fellow at Competitive Enterprise institute.

And it really is important to real realize what is at stake here. It is something that shocked me back when we were trying, in my freshman term, to amend and reform the Endangered Species Act that has wreaked such havoc with our economy and continues to cause people to lose jobs.

There was reported decline in the unemployment rate from 6.7 to 6.3, and you heard all of the mainstream media, in helping their family members in this administration, just all abuzz and aglow with how wonderful that four-tenths of a percent drop was, failing completely to mention that that was only a fraction of the 800,000 who got so tired of not finding work—800,000 people gave up and quit looking for work and are now considered, under statistics, to no longer be unemployed, even though they are unemployed.

It doesn't account for all the people that are underemployed, that are out of college and can't find jobs; the historic high unemployment rate of our veterans coming back and looking for jobs, even as this administration not only wants to cut the military back to a fraction of its former self, back to pre-World War II levels, when we were not a superpower, and hatred and genocide began to reign supreme.

That doesn't explain why the administration and some people here in the House, friends of mine here in the House, that are saying: You know what? Let's give the few jobs left in our military to people that are not lawfully in this country.

If they will do that, even though it will displace one of the few military jobs left after we cut the military back so far and even though it will push them into an even-growing high unemployment rate for veterans, let's go ahead and give those few jobs left to people who are not lawfully in the country. It is not a good idea.

After pushing for over a year and a half for a select committee to get to the bottom of what happened at Benghazi and after we still haven't gotten to the bottom of the Department of Justice's role in forcing guns, which we know they did, forced guns to be sold to criminals and people that should not have had guns, that ended up with drug cartels in Mexico, with reports of hundreds of Mexicans killed by the weapons we forced into improper and illegal criminal hands, we—being the Justice Department of this administration—we haven't gotten answers to that.

That is why, even today, as I stand here, the highest-ranking law enforcement officer in the land stands in contempt of Congress; although I was gratified to hear him say, in answer to a question of mine, that I am not supposed to ever presume that it wasn't a big deal to him.

Unfortunately, he said, a year ago to ABC News that it wasn't any kind of big deal at all because, to be a big deal, he would have had to have respect for the people that voted for the contempt;

and since he had no respect for the people that voted for the contempt, it wasn't a big deal to him.

So a year ago, it wasn't a big deal; and this year, apparently, it is still a big deal, but I am not supposed to think that it is not a big deal to him, even though that is what he said, and the familial relationships in the mainstream media continue to give cover.

As I have continued to complain about the inadequate investigation into the Tsarnaevs—the failure of this administration to properly investigate the Tsarnaevs, even after the Russians, who are not our friends, gave us, twice, a heads up. Look out. The older Tsarnaev has been radicalized.

Now, you have got people in the mainstream media parroting what the Obama administration is saying. Well, those darned old Russians, they should have given us more information.

They did us a favor giving us a heads up. We are not their friends. They gave us a heads up anyway.

They don't even—they purged the FBI training material, so our agents don't know the proper questions to ask to find out if someone has been radicalized.

□ 2030

They won't allow people that have spent their adult lives studying radical Islam—people like that, like Steve Coughlin—they are not allowed to even go give a briefing to people to explain what radical Islam is.

And then we hear people like the Department of Homeland Security Secretary at the time, Janet Napolitano, who seemed to take the position that, gee, you know, we are just not able to connect the dots. But yet it appears that, under her watch, not only did she promote what Egyptian Muslim Brother publications said were top Muslim Brother people into top Homeland Security and Obama administration positions, but she gave a secret clearance—and there is no way it could have been given after proper vetting because proper vetting would have showed that he was a main speaker giving tribute to the man of vision, the Ayatollah Khomeini, who has a foundation called the Freedom and Justice Foundation, which is the same name as the Muslim Brother political party in Egypt who defended the convicted terrorist supporter of the head of the Holy Land Foundation, said there was nothing wrong with what he was doing.

I am very proud of the Senator from Iowa. I want to do a shout-out, Mr. Speaker, down the hall and read a letter from Senator GRASSLEY. I was just there in Iowa a few days ago, Senator GRASSLEY's territory. The senior Senator from Iowa, CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, wrote a letter to the new Secretary of Homeland Security, Jeh Johnson, and he said:

My office recently received copies of disturbing internal Department of Homeland Security, DHS, emails regarding the admittance of individuals into the United States with potential ties to terrorism.

The May 2012 email chain between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CBP, surrounds the question of whether to admit someone who had scheduled an upcoming flight into the U.S. Allegedly, the individual was a member of the Muslim Brotherhood and a close associate of a supporter of ''Hamas, Hezbollah, and Palestinian Islamic jihad.'' According to the same email, the individual had been in secondary inspection ''several dozen times of the past several years,'' but had not had a secondary inspection since 2010.

One of the responses to the initial email states: ''The CBP National Targeting Center, NTC, watch commander advised that the subject has sued CBP twice in the past and that he's one of the several hands-off passengers nationwide. Apparently, his records were removed in December 2010, and the DHS Secretary was involved in the matter.'' The email continues:

I'm puzzled how someone could be a member of the Muslim Brotherhood and unindicted coconspirator in the Holy Land Foundation trial—

Which, parenthetically, was a trial in which people were convicted of supporting terrorism, providing financial support for terrorism, convicted, and this individual mentioned was a named coconspirator in the pleadings.

The message and the email goes on:

—be an associate of (redacted), say that the U.S. is staging car bombings in Iraq and that it is okay for men to beat their wives, question who was behind the 9/11 attacks, and be afforded the luxury of a visitor visa and de-watchlisted. It doesn't appear that we'll be successful with denying him entry tomorrow, but maybe we could reevaluate the matter in the future since the decision to de-watchlist him was made 17 months ago.

Senator GRASSLEY's message to Secretary Johnson of DHS said:

In order to understand the events described in these emails, please provide the committee with answers to the following questions:

One, why was this individual removed from the watchlist in December 2010?

Two, please describe the nature, extent, and reasons for the involvement of the DHS Secretary or her staff in the removal of the individual from the watchlist.

Three, what is the current watchlist status of this individual?

Four, how many people are on the hands-off list mentioned in the email?

Five, what qualifies someone to receive the ''hands-off'' designation?

Six, does filing a lawsuit result in being designated ''hands-off'' and, thus, avoiding secondary security screenings?

Seven, who makes the determination that an individual should be considered ''hands-off''?

Senator GRASSLEY says: I would appreciate receiving answers to these questions by March 3, 2014. Should you have any questions regarding the letter—and he goes on, and he signs it, CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, Ranking Member.

Then there is an attachment to his letter. And there is so much that is redacted here, Mr. Speaker, that there are a lot of gaps. But even so, it is easy to see how serious this is.

This was from Thursday, May 10, 2012, not quite a year before the Boston bombing. But as was pointed out in the letter, this email was from a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer to the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol protection. The body says:

The NTC watch commander advised that the subject has sued CBP twice in the past and that he's one of several hands-off passengers nationwide. He said he checked if there was a copy of the lawsuits filed against CBP in the historical logs. Can you pass the lawsuits if they are at NTC? I assume the lawsuits were against the heads of DHS and presume it was a civil proceeding, but who knows where it was filed, since the subject lives outside the U.S. I didn't know that a Canadian citizen who lives in (blank) could sue DHS. Also not sure if the lawsuits were regarding him being stopped frequently or his admissibility/inadmissibility or both. If the lawsuits weren't about his admissibility/inadmissibility, we should proceed forward regarding that once the lawsuits are reviewed.

If the lawsuits aren't readily accessible at CBP/NTC, I can check with someone at CBP headquarters to get them. Apparently his records were removed in December 2010, and the DHS Secretary was involved in the matter.

I'm puzzled how someone could be a member of the Muslim Brotherhood and unindicted coconspirator in the Holy Land Foundation trial, be an associate of (blank), say that the U.S. is staging car bombings in Iraq and that is okay for men to beat their wives, question who was behind the 9/11 attacks and be afforded the luxury of a visitor visa and de-watchlisted. It doesn't appear that we'll be successful with denying him entry tomorrow, but maybe we could reevaluate the matter in the future since the decision to de-watchlist him was made 17 months ago. Thanks.

And then the name is blotted out.

Anyway, other messages. One in response down the email chain:

I spoke with CBP (blank) who is obviously very familiar with this traveler. I am of the opinion that (blank) meets the parameters for refusal based on the three INA 212(a)(3) terrorism charges and that when he enters the U.S. on a B1/B2 for lectures/speeches for organizations or for events where a registration fee is required or admission needs to be paid, he should probably be seeking an R–1 or an O–1 visa instead.

Perhaps one of the reasons he has not applied for an O–1 visa or R–1 visa is because of the terrorist-related questions these forms ask that he would then be forced to answer.

Does NTC have any background information or guidance it can share on the logs or former records this subject has had? Or if he has applied for any waivers of inadmissibility? Does NTC have any objections if CBP denies admission to (blank) under either terrorism grounds or improper non-immigrant visa?

Based on a review of the statements of the subject, I think it is clear that he meets the definition of endorsing and inciting. If he'd like to enter the U.S. in the future, he can seek a waiver to overcome those inadmissibility grounds, but none has been sought to my knowledge.

And the email prior to that said:

Yesterday afternoon, we, HSI (blank) office, received a lead regarding (blank) AKA (blank), an Egyptian-born Canadian citizen who is a member of the Muslim Brotherhood and close associate of (blank), an individual residing in (blank) who supports Hamas, Hezbollah, and Palestinian Islamic jihad. (Blank) has been looked at in secondary inspections several dozen times over the past

several years. However, he has not been secondaried since (blank) 2010. (Blank) has a reservation to depart (blank) Canada at (blank) on this Friday morning for a flight to (blank) that stops in (blank) first.

He is scheduled to speak at some conference, in some city, on some night—it is all blacked out.

I am passing this right up to (blank) at HSI to forward to CBP regarding possible inadmissibility grounds related to INA 2012(a)(3) terrorism charges because (blank)'s potential inciting, endorsing, and association with terrorists. (Blank) has been looked at in the past, but hopefully this collection of 20 supporting open source articles will assist with making an informed inadmissibility determination.

But anyway, apparently, despite all of those open inadmissibility issues, according to the later email, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security herself at the time, Janet Napolitano, had a hands-off list apparently including people like this member of the Muslim Brotherhood.

When it comes to the Boston bombing, I have met some of the Boston Police. I was impressed. And I would bet if the City of Boston Police Department had been given a heads-up by either the FBI or CIA that the Russians say this Tsarnaev guy has been radicalized, is capable of murder, then it would have entirely changed the investigation by the Boston Police Department into people that were killed that were known to Tsarnaev.

And I would bet you, since I am not aware of the Boston Police Department having had their training materials purged to exclude anything that might offend a radical Islamist, they may have been able to go out to the mosque and ask about Tsarnaev if they had known the allegation that he had been radicalized, and they may have been able to answer better questions about the type of Islamic leaders that the older Tsarnaev liked, that he read, that he endorsed, and they could have made a better decision than our own Justice Department did on whether or not he had been radicalized.

□ 2045

That should have been shared with the Boston police. If they had had that information without having had their training materials purged, they may have done a better job of protecting those people at the Boston Marathon.

Then you read emails going back and forth among our ICE agents, Customs and Border Patrol people who were shocked that a guy who is a Muslim Brother, who has incited people to hatred against the United States, who was a named coconspirator with people who were convicted of supporting terrorism, how it is the Secretary of Homeland Security could give him a pass, just as she did to a reported member of the Muslim Brotherhood—reported by an Egyptian magazine supportive of the Muslim Brotherhood—how she could just give him a secret security clearance. And even after I tell her about his downloading two documents from a classified source that she gave him access to and pointed out to her about a reporter saying he had tried to shop the two documents, she said she investigated, but I know they didn't because they never even talked to that one reporter that knew about the documents being shopped. They never checked.

As far as I know, he is still giving advice at the top level of Homeland Security as a Muslim Brother, according to the Egyptians. He is given access to our classified documents, and then we see that same Homeland Security Secretary that gave him access to classified documents that he reportedly—and according to somebody I trust—he had shopped them and tried to get a national news media to publish them. They didn't even look into it. They didn't even investigate that properly.

How safe can America be when Homeland Security is creating hands-off lists that put us at risk? With that, I yield back my time.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MULLIN). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2148

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLE) at 9 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE REPORT 113–415 AND AN ACCOMPANYING RESOLUTION, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. Res. 565, APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Mr. NUGENT, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–439) on the resolution (H. Res. 568) relating to the consideration of House Report 113–415 and an accompanying resolution, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 565) calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups by the Internal Revenue Service, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4438, AMERICAN RESEARCH AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014

Mr. NUGENT, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 113–440) on the resolution (H. Res. 569) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4438) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ADERHOLT (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of the recent tornadoes in Alabama.

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of the recent tornadoes in Arkansas.

Mr. NUNNELEE (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of the recent tornadoes in Mississippi.

Mr. RUSH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of attending to a family matter.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4120. An act to amend the National Law Enforcement Museum Act to extend the termination date.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 7, 2014, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5544. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report of multiple violations of the Antideficiency Act by the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Agency of Healthcare Research and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and Health Resources and Services Administration, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

5545. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of 6 officers to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of major general or brigadier general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

5546. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report on Preventive Services and Obesity-related Services Available to Medicaid Enrollees; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5547. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2013 MDUFA Financial Report required by the Medical Device User Fee

Amendments of 2012; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5548. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting annual financial report as required by the Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act for FY 2013; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5549. A letter from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2013 Medicaid Integrity Program Report; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5550. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri [EPA-R07-OAR-2013-0672; FRL-9909-43-Region 7] received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5551. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Reasonably Available Control Technology for the 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R06-OAR-2012-0100; FRL-9909-51-Region 6] received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5552. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Air Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills; State of Missouri [EPA-R07-OAR-2013-0692; FRL-9909-45-Region 7] received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5553. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances; Withdrawal [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2013-0739; FRL-9909-25] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5554. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Underground Storage Tank Program: Codification of Approved State Program for South Carolina (EPA-R04-UST-2013-0679; FRL-9909-12-Region 4) received April 10, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5555. A letter from the Auditor, Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a copy of the report entitled, ''Certification of the Fiscal Year 2014 Total Local Source General Fund Revenues (Net of Dedicated Taxes) in Support of the District's Issuance of $495,425,000 in General Obligation Bonds (Series 2013A)'', pursuant to D.C. Code section 47-117(d); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5556. A letter from the Director, Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5557. A letter from the Administrator, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual report for FY 2013 prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5558. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Division Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0740; Directorate Identifier 2013-NE-24-AD; Amendment 39-17804; AD 2014-05-32] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5559. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0174; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-212-AD) (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5560. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0976; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-198-AD; Amendment 39-17686; AD 2013-24-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5561. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-0545; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-048-AD; Amendment 39-17787; AD 2014-05-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 16, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5562. A letter from the Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's ''Major'' final rule — Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System for Federally Qualified Health Centers; Changes to Contracting Policies for Rural Health Clinics; and Changes to Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 Enforcement Actions for Proficiency Testing Referral [CMS-1443-FC] (RIN: 0938-AR62) received May 1, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

5563. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a report required by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1807; jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Intelligence (Permanent Select).

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 863. A bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–411, Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ISSA: Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Supplemental Report to Accompany Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, Former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with a Subpoena Duly Issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Rept. 113–415, Pt. 2) Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2919. A bill to amend titles 5 and 28, United States Code, to require annual reports to Congress on, and the maintenance of databases on, awards of fees and other expenses to prevailing parties in certain administrative proceedings and court cases to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes (Rept. 113–434). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GOODLATTE: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4292. A bill to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title (Rept. 113–435). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCCAUL: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4228. A bill to require the Department of Homeland Security to improve discipline, accountability, and transparency in acquisition program management; with an amendment (Rept. 113–436). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 503. A bill to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 113–437). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2430. A bill to adjust the boundaries of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to include Hinchliffe Stadium, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 113–438). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. NUGENT: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 568. Resolution relating to the consideration of House Report 113–415 and an accompanying resolution, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 565) calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups by the Internal Revenue Service (Rept. 113–439). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. COLE: Committee on Rules. House. Resolution 569. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4438) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit (Rept. 113–440). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MCHENRY (for himself and Mr. GARRETT):

H.R. 4564. A bill to amend the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act to improve the crowdfunding provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MCHENRY (for himself and Mr. GARRETT):

H.R. 4565. A bill to amend the securities laws to improve the small company capital formation provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MESSER, and Mr. YOHO):

H.R. 4566. A bill to establish a commission to conduct a comprehensive review over 6 years of Federal agencies and programs and to recommend the elimination or realignment of duplicative, wasteful, or outdated functions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. REICHERT (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 4567. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to broaden the special rules for certain governmental plans under section 105(j) to include plans established by political subdivisions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 4568. A bill to enhance the ability of smaller reporting companies to access the public securities markets by allowing forward incorporation by reference on Form S-1, to add listing and registration of a class of common equity securities on a national securities exchange as an additional basis for satisfying the requirements of General Instruction I.B.1. of Form S-3, and to remove such listing and registration as a requirement of General Instruction I.B.6. of such form; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GARRETT (for himself and Mr. HURT):

H.R. 4569. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to make certain improvements to form 10-K and regulation S-K, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GARRETT (for himself and Mr. MCHENRY):

H.R. 4570. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise Regulation D relating to exemptions from registration requirements for certain sales of securities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 4571. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise its rules so as to increase the threshold amount for requiring issuers to provide certain disclosures relating to compensatory benefit plans; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WALDEN (for himself, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WAXMAN, and Ms. ESHOO):

H.R. 4572. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mrs. ELLMERS, and Mr. WOLF):

H.R. 4573. A bill to protect children from exploitation, especially sex trafficking in tourism, by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered child-sex offenders outside the United States to the government of the country of destination, requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known child-sex offender is seeking to enter the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BARBER (for himself, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MATSUI, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 4574. A bill to maximize the access of individuals with mental illness to community-based services, to strengthen the impact of such services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, Education and the Workforce, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COOK:

H.R. 4575. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land to operate a visitor center for Joshua Tree National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. ESTY, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 4576. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish and implement a fatigue management plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 4577. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure equal access of Medicare beneficiaries to community pharmacies in underserved areas as network pharmacies under Medicare prescription drug coverage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mr. FARR, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 4578. A bill to require that Peace Corps volunteers be subject to the same limitations regarding coverage of abortion services as employees of the Peace Corps with respect to coverage of such services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SALMON (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. GARCIA, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. ENGEL):

H.R. 4579. A bill to require the Secretary of Education to verify that individuals have made a commitment to serve in the Armed Forces or in public service, or otherwise are a borrower on an eligible loan which has been submitted to a guaranty agency for default aversion or is already in default, before such individuals obtain a consolidation loan for purposes specified under section 455(o) of the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. HONDA, Mr. WALZ, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

H.R. 4580. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4581. A bill to prohibit the United States from funding projects that discriminate against Israeli organizations that operate beyond the 1949 armistice lines; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. TIERNEY (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HOLT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 4582. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TSONGAS (for herself, Mr. PETRI, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. ENYART, Mr. O'ROURKE, and Ms. SHEA-PORTER):

H.R. 4583. A bill to modify certain requirements for countable resources and income under the Supplemental Security Income program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 4584. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and extend the new qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicles credit and to enable such credit to be converted to a rebate at the point of sale; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H. Res. 567. A resolution providing for the Establishment of the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. CRENSHAW (for himself and Mr. MEEKS):

H. Res. 570. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Malaria Day; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOLLY, Mr. HANNA, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. BLACK, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. TERRY, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. REED, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. MARINO, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Ms. JENKINS):

H. Res. 571. A resolution recognizing the roles and contributions of America's teachers to building and enhancing the Nation's civic, cultural, and economic well-being; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PETERS OF CALIFORNIA (for himself, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. BENISHEK, Mr. HONDA, Ms. CHU, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. ESTY, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. FARR, Mr. RUSH, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. BARBER, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms.

SPEIER, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HOLT, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. POLIS, and Mr. DEUTCH):

H. Res. 572. A resolution expressing support for designation of the first full week of May as ''National Mental Health No Stigma Week''; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. WILSON OF FLORIDA (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. BASS, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SIRES, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. BERA of California, Mr. HONDA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ROYCE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, and Ms. HANABUSA):

H. Res. 573. A resolution condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the terrorist group known as Boko Haram in northeastern provinces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California introduced A bill (H.R. 4585) for the relief of Antonia Esmeralda Aguilar Belmontes; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 4564.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section Eight

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 4565.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section Eight

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:

H.R. 4566.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, section 8, clause 1:

The Congress shall have power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Article One, section 8, clause 18:

The Congress shall have Power—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. REICHERT:

H.R. 4567.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution and Amendment XVI of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 4568.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to the Congress in Aricle I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution: ''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.''

Additional authotity derives from Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution: ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.'')

By Mr. GARRETT:

H.R. 4569.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 (''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States''), 3 (''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes''), and 18 (''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof'').

By Mr. GARRETT:

H.R. 4570.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 (''The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States''), 3 (''To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes''), and 18 (''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof'').

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 4571.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, as this legislation regulates commerce between the states.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, providing Congress with the authority to enact legislation necessary to execute one of its enumerated powers, such as Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 4572.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 4573.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, as sex offenders are traveling in foreign commerce.

By Mr. BARBER:

H.R. 4574.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. COOK:

H.R. 4575.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 4576.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power * * * To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia:

H.R. 4577.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 4578.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I.

By Mr. SALMON:

H.R. 4579.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 4580.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. STOCKMAN:

H.R. 4581.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

[The Congress shall have Power] To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations''

By Mr. TIERNEY:

H.R. 4582.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. TSONGAS:

H.R. 4583.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 1

Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 4584.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power To . . . make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof..

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California:

H.R. 4585.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 and Amendment I, Clause 3 of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Ms. CHU and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 24: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. PERRY, Mr. GIBBS, and Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 148: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 184: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 352: Ms. GRANGER.
H.R. 401: Mr. KENNEDY.
H.R. 410: Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 437: Ms. HANABUSA.
H.R. 508: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 521: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 543: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 556: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 644: Mr. BARLETTA.
H.R. 713: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 798: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 808: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. GRAYSON.
H.R. 842: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 855: Ms. TITUS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 863: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 875: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 897: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MCINTYRE, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 920: Mr. TAKANO, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. MOORE, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri and Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.
H.R. 946: Mr. CASSIDY.
H.R. 963: Mr. POCAN and Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 997: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 1020: Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 1024: Mr. WALZ.
H.R. 1106: Mr. COLLINS of New York.
H.R. 1175: Ms. Clark of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1179: Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 1199: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
H.R. 1213: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 1226: Mr. MEADOWS.
H.R. 1240: Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 1249: Mr. SIMPSON and Mr. ROTHFUS.
H.R. 1250: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 1257: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 1354: Mr. GIBSON and Mr. HUNTER.
H.R. 1428: Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 1429: Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 1449: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TERRY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. SHUSTER.
H.R. 1507: Mr. GARCIA, Mrs. CAPPS, and Mr. WALDEN.
H.R. 1563: Mr. SOUTHERLAND.
H.R. 1599: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 1663: Mr. COHEN and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 1750: Mr. RIGELL.
H.R. 1771: Mrs. BACHMANN.
H.R. 1796: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 1812: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 1827: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 1852: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 1875: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 1953: Mrs. NEGRETE MCLEOD.
H.R. 2003: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 2078: Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 2154: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 2384: Mr. RANGEL and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 2510: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 2553: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 2591: Ms. SPEIER and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
H.R. 2632: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 2647: Mr. YOHO.
H.R. 2663: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 2673: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2676: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
H.R. 2692: Ms. TSONGAS and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 2734: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 2746: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 2807: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
H.R. 2825: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2835: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 2870: Mr. HUNTER, Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 2955: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. KILDEE, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 2959: Mr. FORBES.
H.R. 2981: Mr. SMITH of Washington and Mr. BARBER.
H.R. 2996: Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. WOLF, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 2997: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 3137: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 3168: Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 3199: Mr. COTTON and Mr. GIBBS.
H.R. 3279: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 3318: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H.R. 3344: Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 3361: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 3374: Mr. POLLIS.
H.R. 3407: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida.
H.R. 3413: Mr. PITTENGER.
H.R. 3485: Mr. YOUNG of Indiana.
H.R. 3530: Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 3610: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana and Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 3658: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. LIPINSKI.
H.R. 3698: Ms. MATSUI, Ms. GRANGER, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 3707: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. OWENS, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3708: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan and Mr. JORDAN.
H.R. 3717: Mr. GIBSON.
H.R. 3722: Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. GIBSON, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. MATHESON.
H.R. 3747: Mr. CICILLINE and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 3774: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 3836: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 3863: Mr. ROKITA.
H.R. 3877: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 3905: Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Ms. FUDGE.
H.R. 3929: Ms. SHEA-PORTER and Mr. VISCLOSKY.
H.R. 3930: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. LUCAS, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3982: Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 4017: Mr. NUGENT and Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia.
H.R. 4028: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
H.R. 4031: Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan, Mr. JOLLY, Mrs. BLACK, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 4035: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 4036: Mr. AMASH.
H.R. 4040: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4042: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 4077: Mr. GRAYSON and Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 4079: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 4103: Mr. LEWIS.
H.R. 4111: Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 4122: Mr. DELANEY and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4129: Mr. LATHAM and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4143: Mr. POSEY, Mr. HARPER, and Mr. PITTENGER.
H.R. 4155: Mr. TERRY.
H.R. 4169: Mr. RUIZ, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.
H.R. 4188: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 4190: Mr. LOEBSACK.
H.R. 4200: Mr. HIMES and Ms. MOORE.
H.R. 4217: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. DELANEY, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. ENYART, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 4225: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 4227: Mr. COHEN and Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 4237: Mr. MCKINLEY.
H.R. 4250: Mr. ROSS and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 4252: Mr. TIBERI.
H.R. 4286: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H.R. 4303: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 4310: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 4317: Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 4318: Mr. POMPEO.
H.R. 4325: Mr. ELLISON and Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 4342: Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 4351: Mr. GIBSON, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. COLE and Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 4363: Ms. CHU, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 4365: Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. POLIS, Ms. KUSTER, and Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H.R. 4368: Ms. SPEIER.
H.R. 4382: Mr. RIBBLE.
H.R. 4386: Ms. BASS.
H.R. 4391: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4396: Mr. OLSON.
H.R. 4398: Mr. ROONEY.
H.R. 4411: Mr. COTTON, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. BROUN of Georgia, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. GIBBS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. RUSH, Ms. JENKINS, Mr. LANCE, Mr. WILLIAMS, and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
H.R. 4415: Mr. COHEN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. DEUTCH, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 4419: Mr. COOK.
H.R. 4423: Mr. MCKINLEY and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 4426: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 4450: Mr. COHEN and Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 4498: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 4511: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. HIGGINS, and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 4521: Mr. COTTON, Mr. ROSS, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. BARR.
H.R. 4524: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4531: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 4542: Mr. HIMES.
H.J. Res. 2: Mr. JOLLY.
H.J. Res. 20: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.J. Res. 21: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.J. Res. 25: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.J. Res. 104: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H. Con. Res. 95: Ms. DELBENE.
H. Res. 36: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. HANNA.
H. Res. 72: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
H. Res. 106: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina and Mr. GOWDY.
H. Res. 109: Mr. FARR, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. MARINO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H. Res. 221: Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H. Res. 235: Ms. PINGREE of Maine.
H. Res. 418: Mr. POCAN.
H. Res. 456: Mr. WELCH, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H. Res. 494: Mr. MURPHY of Florida.
H. Res. 525: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H. Res. 526: Mr. COHEN.

H. Res. 532: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H. Res. 540: Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. SABLAN.

H. Res. 561: Mr. POMPEO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RANGEL, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. LONG.

H. Res. 562: Mr. MARINO.

H. Res. 563: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H. Res. 565: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. FORBES, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. BENTIVOLIO, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. DESANTIS.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2014 No. 67

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we will remember Your works and Your wonders of old, meditating on Your mighty acts that bless us each day.

Lord, You have ordained that in the leadership of nations the care of the many will rest upon the shoulders of the few. Give our Senators this day the understanding, humility, and faith to be ambassadors of reconciliation. Lord, help them to have no anxiety about anything, as they trust You to empower them to do their best. Cleanse the inner fountains of their hearts from all that may defile them, sustaining them always with Your mercy and grace.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 368, S. 2262, which is the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency legislation.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 368, S. 2262, a bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the time until 11 a.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 11 o'clock this morning there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the energy efficiency bill.

The Senate will recess, as we do on virtually every Tuesday, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for our weekly caucus meetings. I would advise all Senators that at 2:15 p.m. today we will do our congressional photo that we do every 2 years. So I hope everyone will make sure they are here on time so we have everyone in the photo.

Additionally, there will be a Members-only briefing, a closed briefing, tonight at 5:30 regarding Ukraine. I hope everyone would come to that. There are some things going on in Ukraine we should all know about.

SLIPPERY PROGRESS

Mr. President, being from Nevada and having traveled the State, as I have, in rural Nevada, we have rodeos. I have been to a few rural rodeos in my life. They are always a lot of fun, and it is a unique form of entertainment. It is good for everybody, for families.

One of the things a number of these rodeos have around the country are greased-pig contests. For all those who do not know what a greased-pig contest is, here is what it is: The organizers get a little pig—a piglet—and they cover this little animal with tons of grease. It is a greasy little pig. Then they turn the kids loose. They invite these children to chase one of these pigs. Pigs are a little slippery to begin with, but if you cover them with grease, they are really slippery.

These kids run around the arena trying to grab this pig. They grab it and fall. They have a great time. The children run as fast as they can. Some of them get smart and do not run so fast. They wait until the pig turns around—and they do a lot of times. But they try to scoop up this scurrying pig. It is really quite a spectacle, and it is a lot of fun to watch. There is no pain to the pig. It is kind of a painless ordeal for the pig. But it is a lot of fun, as I said.

It is obvious what happens every time they grab the pig. They slip. The pig goes on about its business, running. They fall into the dirt. They come out covered with grease and dirt. But eventually—eventually—one of these kids will wind up with the pig. Sometimes two kids grab the pig. They understand what happens, and they put the pig in one of their arms, and someone comes and takes the pig. But they have a good time.

The vast majority of the kids never touch the pig. They go away empty-handed, for sure. And that is regardless of how hard they try.

The reason I mention this, ofttimes working with my Senate Republican colleagues, it reminds me of chasing one of these little pigs in a greased-pig contest. Regardless of all of our efforts, anytime we get close to making progress, it seems as though we watch it slip out of our hands and the Republicans scamper away.

Take, for example, the legislation that is currently before the Senate—the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill. This bill has bipartisan support. We tried to do the bill a year ago. Frankly, at that time the bill was good, but not nearly as good as it is now. It is a very substantive piece of legislation.

From the time last year to today, the committee—under the direction, then, of Senator WYDEN, who was chair of the committee, working with all the members on that committee—put other things in the bill, and the bill that is now before the Senate is much stronger than it was a year ago.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Printed on recycled paper.

This legislation will make our country more energy independent and protect our environment. It will spur the use of energy efficiency technologies in private homes and commercial buildings, at no cost to taxpayers. It is an energy efficiency bill, and it has bipartisan support.

This legislation will make our country more energy independent and protect our environment. It will also save consumers and taxpayers money, and lots of it. It will do it by lowering their energy bills, saving about $16 billion a year—that is what they tell us—and it will create up to 200,000 jobs that cannot be exported.

I have commended a number of times—and I will do it again—Senators SHAHEEN and PORTMAN for their persistence in bringing this bill to the floor. This is a fine piece of legislation. But it seems, for the second time within a year, passage of this bipartisan legislation is in question because Senate Republicans keep changing their requests. This time around the minority party seems intent on a repeat performance of last year.

Remember last year. The same thing. We want this; we want this. But the clincher we were told was that—last year—they would not vote on the bill unless we brought a bill sponsored by the Senator from Louisiana—the name was not LANDRIEU; it would be the junior Senator from Louisiana—saying: I demand a vote, before we do this legislation, on doing away with the health insurance Senate staff have. Can you imagine that. But that was his demand, and it is his demand again. He called to tell me that.

In order to allow us to vote on this bill, I was told before the break that the Republicans wanted a vote on Keystone—a sense-of-the-Senate resolution. I thought about it, and I came back to them before the recess and said: OK, we will do that. We come back after the break, and they come to me and say: Well, we have changed our mind. What we want now is a straight up-or-down vote on the legislation. That is not the agreement we had. But, anyway, I said: OK, we will do that.

Well, now we are told that there are up to five amendments they want. And yesterday—last evening—I was told there is another one I never heard of. This is something about geothermal, but the extent of it I do not understand. But it is always something else.

We have these new provisions that have been added to the bill to make this legislation even stronger than last year.

To add further to the absurdity of what we are doing here, again the junior Senator from Louisiana wants a vote on taking away health care for our staffs. I said to him: But why would you do that? He said: Well, the higher paid employees, they can probably afford to get it themselves. I am paraphrasing because I remember the telephone conversation. He said—no, I am sorry; here it is—the lower waged salaried employees in the Senate, they will get subsidies—a lot of them. I said: What about those who do not? He said: They could buy their own insurance.

These men and women who work in the Senate work very hard. They should be treated as other employees around the country. Their employer should help them with their insurance. But it appears as if it is a virtual reenactment of last September. It seems as though this is nothing but a game of diversion and obstruction to many Senate Republicans.

But it is not a game. Every time a group of Republicans feigns interest in bipartisanship, only to scramble away at the last moment, it is part of a calculated political scheme.

We know on the very night of President Obama's first inauguration, a group of Republican political consultants—there is some dispute as to who called the meeting, whether it was Frank Lutz or Karl Rove, but a meeting was held—gathered, the Republicans gathered, to discuss their plans for regaining power after President Obama won the election.

They devised a plan to oppose all legislation and all nominees in order to make President Obama and Democrats look ineffective—to make our country, I assume, look more ineffective. But their No. 1 goal was to make sure President Obama was not reelected.

They failed with that, but they have not failed at obstructing, filibustering, and stopping the legislative process. Instead of working with us to pass meaningful legislation that helps American families, Republican leadership has shown more interest in agreeing to nothing. So as Senate Republicans continue to play hard to get with Democrats who are working in good faith, the American people's frustration grows.

This bill presents a unique opportunity for all my Republican colleagues—a chance to work with us in crafting and passing bipartisan legislation that will help the country.

I and my 54 Democratic colleagues have been flexible throughout this process, and we hope to reach an agreement that gives both sides most of what they want. But time is running out on this good piece of legislation—running out again.

So I invite all of my Republican colleagues to work with us in good faith. Help us pass a bill which creates jobs, saves money, and puts our country on the track to energy independence.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have the floor.

Please go ahead.

ENERGY AMENDMENTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me briefly make a few observations about some of the majority leader's opening comments this morning.

As he knows full well, Senator VITTER dropped his request for an ObamaCare amendment days ago, before the weekend. I think it is important for everybody to understand, the minority in the Senate has had eight votes since July—eight votes since July—on amendments that we wished to vote on.

We have not had a fulsome energy debate in the Senate since 2007—7 years ago. What we are asking for here is four or five amendments related to the subject of energy—one of the biggest issues in our country. That is hardly obstructionism. It is laughable to suggest that it is obstructionism for the minority to be given four or five amendments on issues related to the underlying bill, particularly since we have only had eight amendment votes on amendments that we wanted to vote on since last July, and we have not had a fulsome, broad-ranging energy debate since 2007.

So I would say to my friend, the majority leader, I do not think there is anything at all unreasonable about what we are requesting. Far from obstructionism, it is about time we had a debate on energy. We are having an energy boom in this country. It is important to our constituents all across the land. Forty-five Republicans represent millions of Americans. We wish to have a chance to have our voices heard occasionally. Eight amendments for the minority since July? This is not the way the Senate ought to be run.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Responding to my friend, the reason we haven't had debates in the Senate on legislation is because Republicans won't let us get on bills.

Let's take the bill that we are talking about today. Could we step back just a minute and try to do something that is good for the country? Shaheen-Portman is a good bill for America from last year to this year.

My friend can say all he wants about the junior Senator from Louisiana. Everyone knows what he has done on legislation in the past. He called me and told me that we weren't going to move forward on this bill unless he got a vote—what I just talked about. But from the last time we did this bill, these are the amendments that are incorporated in this bill: Collins-Mark Udall on energy efficient schools; Bennet-Ayotte, Better Buildings; Franken amendment to require Federally leased buildings to benchmark energy use data; Mark Udall-Risch, amendment to promote energy efficiency in data centers; Whitehouse-Collins—every one of these bipartisan—on low-income housing retrofits; Landrieu-Wicker amendment on Energy STAR third-party testing; Landrieu-Wicker-Pryor amendment on Federal green buildings; Hoeven-Pryor amendment on water heaters; Hoeven-Manchin and Isakson-Bennet amendments on energy efficiency in Federal and residential buildings; and the Sessions-Pryor amendment on third-party testing.

Last month SHAHEEN and PORTMAN introduced a new version of their bill

incorporating all of these changes. The bill has 14 cosponsors, seven on each side. It is sponsored on the Republican side by Senators PORTMAN, AYOTTE, COLLINS, HOEVEN, ISAKSON, MURKOWSKI, and WICKER; and on the Democratic side by Senators SHAHEEN, BENNET, COONS, FRANKEN, LANDRIEU, MANCHIN, and WARNER.

It will be hard to find a more bipartisan, consensus piece of legislation. All of all of this is a bipartisan piece of legislation, but always it is a shell game. OK, we have got it here. I am trying to figure out where I put that shell. Is it here? Where is that dollar? Is it here?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Would the majority leader yield for a question?

Mr. REID. I will yield in just 1 second.

This is what I talked about earlier. We have been going 5 years with this—5 years—trying to stop anything Obama wants to do. Obama would like to see this passed and so would a bipartisan group of Senators. But for 5 years we have put up with this. It doesn't matter what it is. If Obama wants it, they are against it.

We can have all this sweet talk about how the Senate shall operate. The Senate shall operate by allowing legislation to go forward. This is a perfect example but, no, no—I have told them, if they want a vote on Keystone, they have a vote on Keystone. That is not good enough for them. They add four or five other amendments.

It is never quite enough. So we can see what is going to happen. They are going to let us on the bill today, and they are going to say: Because we don't get our amendments, we are not going to vote to get off the bill.

It has happened time and time again. We waste hours on this.

With all this happy talk about how the Senate should operate—remember, we changed the rules. Why did we do that? Because we had scores of judges that we had to wait for them to give us permission to move to.

We changed the rules. We don't in any way apologize to anybody for having changed the rules.

This is where we are. Legislation is at a standstill, and we have on the books now 140 nominations that are held up. They have held everybody up. We get a few here and a few there.

But the one thing I can't hold up any more are judges. We are moving on the judges. We are going to get the judges done.

If they want to continue blocking ambassadors—we have the Secretary of State, the former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who is going to Angola. We don't have an ambassador there. We don't have an ambassador to Peru. In scores of countries we don't have an American representative there.

There are some political appointments. We can talk about those separately. Every President has political appointments, but I am not pushing this. What I am pushing is the fact that we have these career Foreign Service officers who have waited an entire lifetime. They have worked in these countries in very difficult situations. They have been political officers, they have been economic officers, and now they get a chance to be an ambassador. It is like going to the Super Bowl in the diplomacy world, and they are not going to get that.

I think that the American people understand what is going on. That is why, as a result of polls we have seen, people understand the game the Republicans have played for 5 years. The people are going to have to decide this November as to whether they want another 2 years of obstruction as we have seen it.

This is good legislative policy. The Shaheen-Portman bill would be good for the country, but as usual we have a lot that is good for the country—and we have had it. We don't get much done in the Senate.

Give us some amendments. This is what they say every time because no matter what we do, it is not good enough.

Shaheen-Portman is a good bill. We have 10 new provisions in it. That is not good enough.

We can give them a vote on Keystone—that is not good enough, and that is the way it always is. So there are no surprises to me in what they have done today and what they will probably do on Wednesday or Thursday.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. My friend the majority leader wandered rather far afield. The subject for today is whether it would be inappropriate at 10:20 a.m. on a Tuesday for the minority to have four or five amendments of its choosing, sometime during the course of the week.

It is great that some amendments have been accepted by Members on my side. I am happy about that. The majority picked the ones they were willing to accept and accepted them. I think that is great.

But what about the rest of the Members of the minority, who are not suggesting that we would drop unusual amendments or amendments on an entirely different subject—four or five amendments during the course of the week, with relatively short time agreements, related to the subject of energy.

It strikes me that is simply not unacceptable. We have had eight votes on amendments of our choosing since last July—eight. This is not the way to run the Senate.

The minority represents a lot of Americans, millions and millions of Americans. We are entitled to have our ideas debated and voted on in the Senate as well, ones that we want to vote on, not ones that the majority leader picks for us.

That is the point. We don't think what we are asking is in any way unreasonable. It is certainly consistent with the traditions of the Senate, particularly since we have only had 8 votes on amendments of our choosing in the last 7 or 8 months. I mean, goodness gracious. There is a way to finish this bill. It does enjoy broad bipartisan support.

The majority leader mentioned the President. I don't know that his name has come up in connection with this. We are simply asking for the opportunity to debate and vote on important energy amendments on an energy bill during the pendency of the week. That is all we are asking.

I wish to go on. I understand later the majority leader is going to do some procedural matters, so let me go on and make my opening statement.

ENERGY

Later today we expect the President to talk about the weather at the White House. Presumably, he will use the platform to renew his call for a national energy tax, and I am sure he will get loud cheers from liberal elites, from the kinds of people who leave a giant carbon footprint and then lecture everybody else about low-flow toilets.

But the vast majority of middle-class Kentuckians I represent actually have to worry about paying utility bills, putting food on table, and finding a job in this terrible economy. They are less interested in just doing something on energy. They want to do the smart thing.

What they want are practical solutions to the problems and stresses they are dealing with every single day. That is what we should be focusing on this week because this debate shouldn't be about alleviating the guilt complexes of the liberal elite. It should be about actually achieving the best outcome for the environment, for energy security and, most importantly, for the people we were sent here to represent.

One thing that seems clear is this. Even if we were to enact the kinds of national energy regulations the President seems to want so badly, it would be unlikely to meaningfully impact global emissions anyway unless other major industrial nations do the same. That means getting countries such as China and India on board.

The President knows that. The President also knows that much of the pain of imposing such regulations would be borne by our own middle class.

That is why this discussion has become so cynical, and it is part of the reason the President's own party couldn't even pass a national energy tax when it had complete control of Washington's Congress back in 2009 and 2010. If the American people weren't willing to go along with considerable domestic pain for negligible global gain then, it is foolish to think they would assent to a bad idea now.

Remember, even the President's own party in the Senate wouldn't bring up the President's proposal for a national energy tax despite their overnight speeches and complaints about everyone else.

Of course, none of this has stopped the President from trying to get his way anyway. That is why we have seen this administration's attempt to do an end run around the legislative process to try to impose a similar agenda through executive fiat.

It needs to be stopped. The President's regulations are hurting people, often people who are already struggling and vulnerable—the very people the President claims he wants to help.

Our constituents are being hurt because of a cynical political agenda, because of a war on coal and other sources off American energy that the far left like and the Democratic Party is simply demanding.

The middle class doesn't even have a meaningful say in this discussion because the President has decided the Congress the people elect doesn't really matter anymore. Republicans are trying to change that this week.

We have asked the majority leader to allow votes on energy amendments that would let our constituents have a say for once. My constituents in Kentucky should be able to weigh in on an EPA rule that would negatively impact existing and future coal plants. Kentuckians deserve a real say on ongoing regulatory efforts to tie up mining permits and the red tape that is stifling the creation of good jobs in coal country.

Our constituents should finally be truly heard on the Keystone Pipeline they overwhelmingly support. The American people deserve a real debate on how we can best tap our own extraordinary natural resources to achieve energy independence at home and how we can help our allies overseas through increased exports of American energy.

These are the proposals we should be voting on this very week, proposals that can help our economy, boost the middle class and jobs while strengthening our national security and lessening our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

But we can't move forward if the Democrats who run the Senate keep trying to protect the President at the expense of serving their constituents. We know they are getting pressure from the White House to shut down a real debate on energy. One of the President's aides yesterday made it clear that it will be leaning on Democratic Senators to ''get the right outcome.''

In other words, this is to do the White House's political bidding and to once again ensure that struggling middle-class Americans get the short end of the stick from the Democrats here in Washington.

The American middle class is hurting, absolutely hurting. By a 2 to 1 margin Americans say the country's economic conditions are poor. Only about one-quarter say there are enough jobs available where they live, and they have been suffering from years of spiking electricity prices that would only get worse if the President's agenda were fully realized.

These are the people who deserve our attention. They are the ones who are struggling, not the far left, not the activists who yell the loudest and appear to care the least about who their ideas actually hurt, and not the President's political fixtures in the White House. These are not the people on whom we should be focusing.

It is time—way past time—to start paying attention to the people who actually sent us to the Senate. They deserve a robust debate about how to develop policies that can actually lead to lower utility bills that can put coal families back to work, that can help create well-paying jobs, that can help increase energy security, and that can help prevent energy from being used as a tool of war and oppression by global adversaries.

That is why we were sent to the Senate to debate these kinds of things.

If Democrats have good ideas on energy too, this is the time to share theirs.

What is wrong with having amendments from both sides on this bill. We want to hear everybody's serious ideas.

The American people have waited 7 long years, as I said earlier, for a serious energy debate in the Democratic-run Senate—7 years. It is about time they got it, and this is the perfect week to do it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. To belittle the President of the United States for wanting to talk about climate change is pretty obviously wrong. One can mischaracterize all they want the fact that President Obama recognizes climate is changing worldwide, but it is truly a mischaracterization if anyone thinks this is not something that is serious.

It always appears when we get into a serious debate about a subject, whether it is energy efficiency or climate change, the Republicans want to change the subject, to divert or to obstruct. So what is the Republican answer to this climate change, which is real: more oil production—that is one of their solutions—block regulations to protect health and the environment, deny climate change is happening at all.

The senior Senator from Oklahoma says it is a hoax. It is not a hoax. It is real, and I am very happy the President is saying something about this.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF INDIRA TALWANI TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 655.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Indira Talwani, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I ask the cloture motion be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the cloture motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Indira Talwani, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Dianne Feinstein, Al Franken, Jack Reed, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Harkin, Barbara Boxer, Richard Blumenthal, Edward J. Markey, Richard J. Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Elizabeth Warren.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JAMES D. PETERSON TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 656.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of James D. Peterson, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there is a cloture motion at the desk and I ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the cloture motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of James D. Peterson, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Dianne Feinstein, Al Franken, Jack Reed, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Harkin, Barbara Boxer, Richard Blumenthal, Edward J. Markey, Richard J. Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Elizabeth Warren.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF NANCY J. ROSENSTENGEL TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 657.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Nancy J. Rosenstengel, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I send a cloture motion to the desk, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the cloture motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Nancy J. Rosenstengel, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Dianne Feinstein, Al Franken, Jack Reed, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Harkin, Barbara Boxer, Richard Blumenthal, Edward J. Markey, Richard J. Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Elizabeth Warren.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF ROBIN S. ROSENBAUM TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 690.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Robin S. Rosenbaum, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. If the cloture motion is at the desk, I ask that it be reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to report the cloture motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Robin S. Rosenbaum, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Harry Reid, Patrick J. Leahy, Mazie K. Hirono, Dianne Feinstein, Al Franken, Jack Reed, Amy Klobuchar, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tom Harkin, Barbara Boxer, Richard Blumenthal, Edward J. Markey, Richard J. Durbin, Charles E. Schumer, Elizabeth Warren.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, because of the conversation with Senator MCCONNELL and me, the time ran much longer than it normally does, so I ask unanimous consent that the vote occur at 11:15 rather than 11. Senator DURBIN is here, as well as Senator WARREN, with Senators CORNYN and MORAN, so we will divide the time equally until then.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

Under the previous order, the time until 11:15 a.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I note on the floor the presence of Senators MORAN, CORNYN, and WARREN. May I enter into a consent agreement as to the sequence of speaking? I ask unanimous consent that after I have spoken, Senator WARREN be recognized next on the Democratic side, and I ask which Republican Senator would like to be included and in what order?

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, responding to the question of the distinguished majority whip, through the Chair, it would help if we could alternate between sides, if that is acceptable.

Mr. DURBIN. It is agreed. Who would be first on the Republican side?

Mr. CORNYN. My understanding is Senator MORAN would be first. Then we would go to the Democratic side and then back to me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was going to ask for a specific time for each, but I am going to try to be brief and yield more time for comments from others because I am sure time will be expiring.

The issue we are trying to move to is called the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act. Whenever we talk about energy and the environment, the Senate is up for grabs. There is a divided opinion as to what to do with the energy policy of America. There are sincere and profound differences between the two political parties. We recently had an all-night session talking about the issue of global warming and climate change and there was a real division between Democrats and Republicans about this issue.

I had a statement early in the session, and I come to the floor and renew it today in the hopes one of my two friends on the other side of the aisle can respond to this. My statement is this: The only major political party in the world that denies the existence of global warming and climate change is the Republican Party of the United States of America. I am waiting for some Republican to come forward and refute me. Someone said there is a small party in Australia that doesn't accept global warming and climate change. That may be true, but I am looking for evidence of another major political party, other than the Republican Party of the United States of America, which denies the fact that our human activity on Earth and the pollution we are creating is changing the world in which we are living.

I think there is ample evidence. Incidentally, 98 percent of the scientists

who look at it conclude the same—that we are going through climate change in this world. Look around. Glaciers are melting, the weather is changing, we have more extreme weather events, and our planet is heating up. Some people say: That is just an act of God. It happens every few centuries. That is the way it goes.

I don't think so. I think what we are doing on Earth has something to do with it.

This debate could go on all day and there would be severe differences of opinion on each side of the aisle as to whether what I have said is true, but here is something we should not disagree on—the pending legislation. This bipartisan piece of legislation steps aside from that hot issue—no pun intended—and asks if we can't all agree that energy efficiency is good. Well, sure. Whether one thinks there is an environmental impact of using energy or not, it costs less if you have energy efficiency to heat a home or run a business.

What we are trying to do, thanks to the leadership of Senator SHAHEEN of New Hampshire and Senator PORTMAN of Ohio, Democrat and Republican, is to have a bipartisan approach to it. What they have done is amazing. They took a bill, which frankly was supposed to come up last year and failed because of some problems on the floor, and made it even better and stronger and more bipartisan, with a long series of bipartisan amendments added to the bill to make it better in terms of trying to encourage energy efficiency in the buildings across America, manufacturing new techniques for energy efficiency, and requiring the Federal Government, when it builds a building, to think about energy efficiency.

All of these are bipartisan in nature. Yet we are tied up in knots on the floor of the Senate as to whether we can even consider this bipartisan bill. That is a shame because, quite honestly, when we have a good bipartisan measure on an issue such as energy efficiency, which steps aside from underlying controversial issues, we should move on it. I worry about that. There are some on the other side who say: We don't have enough amendments. There are more we want to add. There is more we want to debate. There is nothing wrong with that, but let us not sacrifice this bill this time.

What is at stake with this bill? It is not just the good ideas of energy efficiency but 190,000 jobs in America. When we start putting in better windows in buildings, when we start putting in better HVAC systems, and all the other things that are going to create energy efficiency, it puts Americans to work. If the Republicans stop us from moving to this bill today, if they stop us from considering this bill this week, it will be at the expense of American jobs. That is wrong.

Now that we have a bipartisan bill, and a strong bill, for goodness' sake, let us put the procedural fights aside. There is a Republican Senator who stopped this bill last week from coming up because he wants to debate—are you ready—ObamaCare. Fifty times the House of Representatives has voted to repeal ObamaCare. It is going nowhere. Yet they continue to come back to it. So this Senator said we can't take up energy efficiency because he wants to debate one aspect of ObamaCare again.

Please, save it for another day. Let us do something in a bipartisan fashion that can guarantee 190,000 people in America a good-paying job.

Wouldn't that be something we can talk about when we come home at the end of the week instead of the fact that the Senate once again broke down into a partisan squabble.

I urge my colleagues on the other side, save some of these really great and not-so-great ideas for another day. Let's pass this bill. It is strong, it is bipartisan, and it really tries to get something done in the Senate, which, sadly, is a rare occurrence.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

VA BACKLOG

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, there is no group of Americans whom I hold in higher regard than our Nation's veterans. Their service and sacrifice have allowed us to live in the strongest, freest, greatest country in the world.

American veterans have fought tyrants and terrorists to keep our country safe and secure. Yet even after they return from war, veterans today continue to fight tough battles here at home. Many veterans find themselves struggling to find a job, they face difficulties accessing quality health care services—especially in rural areas such as mine at home in Kansas—and all too many veterans must wait long periods of time for benefit claims to be processed by the VA.

As of April 2014 the backlog stood at 596,061 outstanding claims, and 53 percent of those have been waiting longer than 125 days for an answer from the VA. It takes approximately 266 days for most new claims to receive an answer.

If a veteran is unhappy with the outcome of their claim, they can file an appeal. The backlog for appeals is more than 272,000—in backlogs alone. Some have waited more than 1,500 days—more than 4 years—to get a response on their appeal.

These numbers represent real people. They are not just statistics. They are not just average, everyday Americans. They are our veterans whom we claim we hold in the highest regard and esteem.

Americans who served our country are waiting to receive the benefits they earned. At a time when more and more troops are transitioning out of the military—and the needs are clear for our aging veterans—I am especially concerned that we are not keeping our promise to those who served our country.

As I travel across Kansas and meet veterans in their communities across our State, I hear the stories about their VA claims process—from systemic issues with the back-and-forth of how the claims are handled, to absurd waiting times in Washington. I hear from veterans organizations that come from Kansas—the American Legion, Disabled Veterans of America, Concerned Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars—and they bring their stories of other veterans to me, outlining the problems the veterans back home are facing. The reality is that our veterans are losing hope that the VA will care for them.

Americans recently heard the story about a whistleblower in Phoenix, AZ, at the VA in which there was a secret waiting list of veterans who had waited more than 7 months to see a doctor in order to avoid VA policies on reporting extended delays. The VA hospital figured out how to hide those claims for 7 months so that they weren't reported.

Incidents of mismanagement and even death caused by the failures of the VA are far more numerous than we see in the news. Reports continue to pop up across the country, from Atlanta to Memphis, from St. Louis to Florida. The claims backlog, medical malpractice, mismanagement of cases, lack of oversight, and unethical environment all contribute to the VA's failure.

It has become abundantly clear that the dysfunction within the VA extends from the top to the bottom—at the highest headquarters and at each VISN and down to the local level in some medical facilities. Community-based outpatient clinics and regional benefit offices are part of the problem. The VA suffers from a culture that accepts mediocrity, leaving too many veterans without the care they need. Our veterans deserve better, and they deserve the best our Nation knows how to offer.

I highlight today the broken VA system and challenge the Department of Veterans Affairs to change. We need accountability and transformation within the VA system and its culture, top to bottom, all across the country. We must break the cycle of dysfunction today and take the steps necessary to make certain our veterans are no longer victims of their own government's bureaucracy.

Here are some examples from across our State:

Jack Cobos, a Kansan who sought medical attention at the Topeka VA hospital emergency room, is told his chest pains are related to muscles around his heart. He is sent home. A week later he returns and is transported to another emergency room. Ultimately, Jack dies of a heart attack—he never recovers—and we now pay tribute to that veteran who failed to receive the care he needed in a timely fashion.

One year later the same Topeka emergency room closed its doors to

veterans seeking emergency treatment. And I am still waiting on a response from the VA to explain the closure of an emergency room at the VA hospital in Topeka, KS.

An outpatient clinic in Liberal has been without a primary care provider for more than 3 years. While others try to fill in the gap, there is nothing to date that the VA has done to solve the underlying problems. There is still no primary care provider.

I recently spoke about claims backlogs with a Kansas veteran involved in the American Legion named Dave Thomas from Leavenworth. He has waited since he filed his claim in 1970 and only this past year received an answer. He received a 90-percent disability rating from the VA, but it took 44 years for him to receive that answer.

A veteran with Parkinson's disease was told recently—he filed his claim in March of last year. He was told this past week that it will now be processed only because his claim is now over a year old. You have to wait a year before you are in line in order for you to receive the process of your claim that you deserved more than 1 year ago. How can the VA establish a wait time benchmark of 1 year for veterans' claims to get the attention they deserve?

It is so disappointing to hear these stories. I know it is unacceptable. Whether a veteran served in 1941, 1951, 1971, 1991, 2001, 2011, or is currently serving, we owe the Nation's veterans our absolute best after their military service is complete. Unfortunately, the VA system continues on a glidepath of dysfunction and is only, at best, playing defense.

The VA's failure is not a matter of resources. That is always the easy answer: more money. But just last week President Obama himself said:

> We've resourced the Veterans Affairs office more in terms of increases than any other department or agency in my government.

VA funding levels have increased well more than 60 percent since 2009. Each year there have been incremental increases of 3, 4, or 5 percent, and this year the request from the President's budget is for a 6.5-percent increase over last year's spending. Yet our veterans continue to struggle and are not getting the treatment they earned and deserve, and they are not getting their benefits.

Republicans and Democrats have agreed on fully funding the VA to serve year after year, but this increase in spending results in no better service from the Department. To date, these increases have not in any way increased the service or support our veterans deserve and need. This is a problem with leadership and a lack of will to change.

I have been a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee for 18 years, both in the House and Senate. I chaired the Health Subcommittee in the House. I have worked with nine VA Secretaries. This is an issue on which I always thought we were making progress. Today it is so disappointing to report to my colleagues in the Senate that this Department is dysfunctional, and the services get worse, not better.

We need accountability at the VA. The 44-year-old claims process of Dave Thomas and the untimely passing of Jack Cobos should not be forgotten, and the Department needs to make meaningful changes so that these cases and cases like these will never happen again.

While we continue to push legislative action, it is time to hold people accountable in order to enforce meaningful change. GAO reports, inspector general reports, and VA whistleblowers all call for action. A list I find now of eight press and IG reports—from CNN, to FOX News, to military.com, to our IG, to the Washington Examiner—all report what we would not believe could ever happen within the VA in the United States of America.

Veterans are waiting for action. Yet the VA continues to operate in the same old bureaucratic fashion, settling for mediocrity and continued disservice to our Nation's heroes.

It is clear that accountability at VA is absent. Oversight doesn't mean much. And I sincerely and seriously question whether the leadership of the VA is capable and willing to enforce change. There is a difference between wanting change and leading it to happen.

Today I am demanding accountability and true transformation within the VA system and its culture, from top to bottom, and all across the country. Secretary Shinseki seemingly is unwilling or unable to do so, and change must be made at the top. I ask the Secretary to submit his resignation, and I ask President Obama to accept that resignation.

We must never forget that our Nation has responsibility to its veterans. That means receiving the care and support they earned.

God bless our veterans and all those serving at home and abroad and all their families. We need a Department of Veterans Affairs that is worthy of your sacrifice.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

(The remarks of Ms. WARREN pertaining to the Introduction of S. 2292 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Introduction of Senate Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Ms. WARREN. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COONS). The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am on the floor today to discuss the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act—which is why we call it Shaheen-Portman; it is a faster way to refer to it.

It is a bill I coauthored with Senator ROB PORTMAN from Ohio, and it represents more than 3 years of meetings, negotiations, compromise, and broad stakeholder outreach in an effort to craft the most effective piece of energy legislation with the greatest chance of passing both Chambers of Congress and of being signed into law. My partner in this effort, Senator PORTMAN, was here on the floor last night talking about why this is a bipartisan bill that can pass not only this Chamber but the House and be signed into law.

It is a bipartisan effort that reflects an affordable approach to boost the use of energy efficiency technologies in our economy. Efficiency is the cheapest, fastest way to reduce our energy use. Energy-saving techniques and technologies lower costs; they free up capital that allows businesses to expand and our economy to grow.

In addition to being an energy bill, it is a jobs bill. We can start improving our efficiency now by installing ready, proven technologies such as modern heating systems, computer-controlled thermostats, low-energy lighting. Efficiency is no longer about putting on a sweater and turning down the thermostat. It is about making use of these technologies that are available today.

There are substantial opportunities which exist across all sectors of our economy that would allow us to conserve energy, to create good-paying private sector jobs, and to reduce pollution.

Our bill reduces the barriers to efficiency in the major energy-consuming sectors of our economy. It does that through buildings, which constitute about 40 percent of our use; through industrial efficiency, where we assist the manufacturing sector which consumes more energy than any other sector of the U.S. economy—we help them implement energy-efficient production technologies; and through the Federal Government, which as I think all of us know, is the single largest user of energy in the country.

The legislation encourages the Federal Government to adopt more efficient building standards, smart-metering technology, to look at our data centers and see how we can reduce the costs there.

Again, this bill will help create private sector jobs. It will save businesses and consumers money. It will reduce pollution and it will make our country more energy efficient.

A recent study by experts of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy found that by 2030 Shaheen-Portman, if it passes, has the potential to create 192,000 domestic jobs, to save consumers and businesses over $16 billion a year, and to reduce carbon pollution by the equivalent of taking 22 million cars off the road. The bill does this without any mandates, without raising the deficit. All authorizations are offset and it even produces a $12 million deficit reduction, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

I have had the opportunity over the last 3½ years as we have been working

on this bill to visit businesses across New Hampshire that are making use of energy-efficient technology, and what I have heard from those businesses is they have adopted these energy efficiencies because it allows them to save money, it allows them to be competitive, it allows them to add jobs in their sectors. I think that is why this legislation enjoys such strong support from industry, from trade associations, and from labor groups as well as efficiency and environmental advocates.

As the Presiding Officer knows, it is not often that we have groups such as the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Wildlife Federation supporting the same piece of legislation. I have a number of letters that have been sent by many of these organizations that illustrate the ever-growing support for the bill. The signatures on these letters go on and on, and they are signed by everyone from the Edison Electric Institute, the American Gas Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Earth Day Network, and the National Association of State Energy Offices.

At this time, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have these letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

APRIL 30, 2014.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Republican Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

MAJORITY LEADER REID AND REPUBLICAN LEADER MCCONNELL: We the undersigned, representing hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs, write to request that The Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014 (S. 2262) be considered by the full Senate as soon as possible.

This sensible, bipartisan legislation enjoys broad support in the business community. The bill's sponsors have worked with industry every step of the way in crafting and vetting this legislation. The reintroduced bill has generated even greater consensus among a growing stakeholder coalition that covers diverse economic sectors and environmental organizations. The enhancements have only strengthened—and broadened—the support of the U.S. business community, while multiplying the energy security and environmental benefits that will accrue from this landmark energy efficiency legislation.

Energy efficiency enjoys broad, bipartisan support as a recent study commissioned by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association and the National Association of Manufacturers demonstrated. Nine in ten of those polled support using energy efficient products and believe it is important to include energy efficiency as part of our country's energy solutions. 74 percent of those polled support investing taxpayers' dollars on energy efficient technologies, innovations and programs if it would save consumers more money. Finally, 69 percent of those polled are more likely to support investing taxpayers' dollars on energy efficiency if those investments will not raise taxes or add to the federal deficit and do not involve government mandates on consumers.

S. 2262 places no new mandates on U.S. businesses or consumers. All new authorizations are fully offset. Provisions in this legislation will promote energy savings in commercial buildings and industrial facilities, which together consume nearly 50 percent of the nation's primary energy. The bill will also reduce energy costs within the federal government, our nation's largest energy consumer, saving taxpayers money.

S. 2262 will also boosts the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers and real estate by creating jobs in the manufacturing, contracting, construction, installation, distribution, design, and service sectors.

For these reasons, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources roundly endorsed the legislation with a strong bipartisan vote of 19–3. The legislation continues to gain additional cosponsors with Sens. Landrieu, Coons, Warner, Franken, Manchin, Collins, Ayotte, Wicker, Hoeven, Isakson, Murkowski and Bennett. The House recently passed several provisions contained in S. 2262 by a vote of 375–36, another strong showing of support for energy efficiency.

Now is the time to act on this important legislation and we ask that S. 2262 be brought to the Senate floor as soon as possible.

AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2014.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Republican Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

MAJORITY LEADER REID AND REPUBLICAN LEADER MCCONNELL: As an industry that creates many of the advanced solutions that help society save energy, we support the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act (S. 2262) and urge the Senate's consideration and adoption as quickly as possible. Enactment of this bipartisan legislation can elevate the role of energy efficiency in a comprehensive, ''all of the above'' national energy policy.

American chemistry is a leader in energy efficiency. Our companies invent and make materials and technologies that empower people around the world to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. High-performance building insulation and windows, solar panels, wind turbines, even lightweight packaging and auto parts that reduce energy needs in shipping and transportation all start with chemistry.

In addition to supplying energy-saving products, we know that being energy-efficient in our own operations helps reduce costs and expand U.S. production and jobs. This commitment has led to a 49 percent improvement in the U.S. chemical industry's energy efficiency since 1974. ACC member companies report on energy efficiency and other measures through Responsible Care® an environmental, health, and safety performance program.

S. 2262 will achieve energy savings across the economy, including homes, buildings, industry, and the federal government. We encourage the Senate to approve this important legislation as a key step toward a strong, secure, and sustainable energy future.

Sincerely,

CAL DOOLEY,
President and CEO.

APRIL 28, 2014.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, The Capitol,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER REID AND MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL: As a broad coalition of energy efficiency and environmental organizations, small and large businesses, trade associations, and public interest groups, we urge you to bring the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act (S. 2074) to the floor for a vote as soon as possible.

S. 2074, introduced on February 27, 2014 by Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Senator Rob Portman, would help meet America's goals of increasing energy productivity, enhancing energy security, reducing harmful emissions, and promoting economic growth in a financially responsible manner. The new version of this bipartisan bill addresses energy savings in the federal government—the nation's largest energy consumer—and includes new provisions that expand energy efficiency savings and benefits to all sectors of the U.S. economy, from schools and homes, to commercial buildings, industry, and manufacturing.

Energy efficiency is the quickest, cheapest, and cleanest way to tackle domestic energy demand. Wasted energy not only weakens our national competitiveness on a global scale, but also compounds the financial burdens of businesses and consumers. An analysis of the new bill by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) estimates that by 2030, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act would create more than 190,000 jobs, save consumers $16 billion a year, and cut carbon dioxide by the equivalent of taking 22 million cars off the road.

Energy efficiency has always been a bipartisan issue. By fully deploying the power of energy efficiency, we can help create new jobs, save energy and money, and reduce carbon emissions. This legislation affords Congress the opportunity to assist the economy without undue cost or regulatory burden.

For these reasons, we urge you to schedule the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act for a vote in the near future so that Americans can begin reaping the many benefits of energy efficiency.

ALLIANCE TO SAVE ENERGY,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2014.

DEAR SENATOR: The Alliance To Save Energy strongly supports S. 2262, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, also known as Shaheen-Portman. When the bill comes to the floor this week, the Alliance urges you to vote for cloture and to vote for the underlying bill.

Energy efficiency is the quickest, cheapest, and cleanest way to reduce domestic energy consumption. Well-designed programs such as those contained in the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act will help American families and businesses lower their energy costs. Moreover, energy efficiency policies offer Americans protection from rising energy costs caused by political instability abroad, and move us towards greater energy security.

This bipartisan bill addresses energy savings in the federal government—the nation's largest energy consumer—and includes provisions that expand energy efficiency savings and benefits to all sectors of the U.S. economy, from schools and homes, to commercial buildings, industry, and manufacturing.

More specifically, Shaheen-Portman contains provisions that will create a national strategy to increase the use of energy efficiency through a model building energy code; promote the development of energy efficient supply-chains for companies; encourage the federal government to adopt and implement energy saving policies and programs; improve federal data center efficiency; support the deployment of energy efficient technologies in schools; improve commercial building efficiency; and promote the benchmarking and disclosure of buildings'

energy use, among a number of other initiatives.

Rather than squandering taxpayers' dollars on needless energy costs, S. 2262 implements practical, cost effective measures to tackle federal energy consumption, while creating jobs and reducing emissions. It is estimated that by 2030, Shaheen-Portman will create more than 190,000 jobs, save consumers $16 billion a year, and cut carbon dioxide emissions by the equivalent of taking 22 million cars off the road.

The American public wants bipartisan policies that will spur economic growth and create jobs. There is consensus that efficiency is the cheapest and fastest way to start reducing demand for the energy we currently use. We believe the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act represents our best chance to improve our demand-side energy policy.

Again, we urge you to vote for cloture and to vote for the underlying bill so that Americans can begin reaping the many benefits of energy efficiency. If you have any questions or need more background information, please have your staff contact Elizabeth Tate at the Alliance To Save Energy.

Sincerely,

KATERI CALLAHAN,
President, Alliance To Save Energy.

ADVANCED ENERGY ECONOMY,
MAY 5, 2014.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Senate Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Senate Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID AND SENATOR MCCONNELL: On behalf of Advanced Energy Economy, a national association of businesses and business leaders who are making the global energy system more secure, clean, and affordable, I am writing to encourage you to bring bipartisan energy efficiency legislation (S. 2074) cosponsored by Senator Jeanne Shaheen and Senator Rob Portman to the Senate floor.

This bipartisan national strategy to increase energy efficiency in the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors of our economy reflects and accelerates the trend toward greater energy efficiency many businesses are embracing. Reducing costs for businesses and consumers and increasing U.S. competitiveness by making our use of energy more efficient is at the core of comprehensive energy policy.

The Senate has an opportunity to join the House in passing bipartisan legislation that moves us toward a more energy-efficient economy. S. 2074 highlights the many ways we can increase energy efficiency. The bill addresses building codes, financing, technical assistance, and rebate programs, all positive steps toward saving money through improved energy efficiency. All of these steps are important to our business members, who stand ready to provide the technologies and services that improve energy efficiency throughout the economy. We strongly support the bill and look forward to working with you as it continues through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

GRAHAM RICHARD,
CEO, Advanced Energy Economy.

NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION,
MAY 5, 2014.

DEAR SENATOR: The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association strongly supports S. 2262, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act sponsored by Senators Shaheen and Portman. When the bill comes to the floor this week, NRECA urges you to vote for cloture and the underlying bill.

Approximately 250 co-ops in 34 states operate voluntary demand response programs using electric resistance water heaters that allow co-ops to reduce demand for electricity during peak hours. In parts of the country, these water heaters also allow co-ops to integrate renewable energy sources like wind and effectively store that energy.

In several major energy bills, Congress has declared the promotion of demand response an important federal policy. A 2012 report by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) recognized co-ops' leadership in demand response. It is through the use of large capacity electric resistance water heaters that co-ops are able to meet such federal goals.

Electric co-ops have a straightforward mission: to provide reliable electric service to their consumer-owners at the lowest cost possible. However, on March 22, 2010, the Department of Energy (DoE) issued a new efficiency standard for water heaters that will effectively end our very successful demand response programs beginning next April.

S. 2262 will allow us to continue to use water heaters in money- and energy-saving demand response programs by establishing a new category of efficiency standard for water heaters used in demand response programs. We have worked closely with Congressional leaders, DoE, other utilities, energy efficiency and environmental advocacy groups, and water heater manufacturers over the past several years to develop this commonsense approach to help continue the beneficial use of electric resistance water heaters.

Importantly, S. 2262 also includes consensus language to resolve Section 433 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, that if not addressed would prohibit federal facilities from using electricity generated from the use of fossil fuels.

Again, when the bill comes to the floor this week, we urge your support. If you have any questions or need more background information, please have your staff contact Julie Barkemeyer at NRECA at 703–907–5809 or julie.barkemeyer@nreca.coop.

Sincerely,

JO ANN EMERSON.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION,
MAY 5, 2014.

DEAR SENATOR, On behalf of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), and our over four million members and supporters nationwide, I urge you to support passage of the bipartisan Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act (S. 2262) and oppose any controversial amendments or associated legislation that does not meet the broadly agreed upon goal of this bill to save money, save energy, and cut carbon pollution. This includes a vote to approve the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline.

A product of cooperation and consensus under the leadership of the bill's sponsors and Energy Committee leadership, S. 2262 applies a common-sense approach to adopting efficiency measures for buildings, industry, and the federal government that will promote significant cost-savings while helping to protect the health of our communities and wildlife threatened by climate change. Should amendments be adopted that do not reflect the same consensus principle that went into producing the current bill, or undermine current efforts by the federal government to reduce carbon pollution, NWF will be forced to oppose the legislation. We encourage you to oppose amendments that would erode the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to regulate carbon pollution, block federal agencies from considering the social cost of carbon when assessing the costs and benefits of major projects, or undermine the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill would be a big step in the right direction. Reducing energy consumption through efficiency measures is not only an important part of carbon reduction strategies, but also provides wildlife and habitat benefits by reducing energy-production related pressure on America's wildlife and pristine lands. These benefits must not be undermined by including controversial amendments or tying the passage of S. 2262 to the approval of the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline.

The Keystone XL tar sands pipeline would force America's wildlife and communities to accept all the risk of oil spills, contaminated water supplies, and climate-fueled extreme weather like superstorm Sandy, and for what reward? Higher Midwest gas prices and a handful of jobs.

The Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill, on the other hand, is estimated to create 136,000 new jobs by 2025. By 2030, the bill will also net annual savings of $13.7 billion and lower CO_2 emissions and other air pollutants by the equivalent of taking 22 million cars off the road. These clear benefits must not be eroded by harmful amendments or a mandated approval of the polluting Keystone XL tar sands pipeline.

Now is the time to implement common sense measures, like efficiency standards, to create jobs, save money and reduce carbon pollution. The National Wildlife Federation urges you to support S. 2262, oppose any amendments or linked legislation that will undermine the consensus and bipartisan cooperation that the bill represents.

Sincerely,

JIM LYON,
Vice President for Conservation Policy, National Wildlife Federation.

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2014.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADERS REID AND MCCONNELL: On behalf of the more than 200 CEO members of Business Roundtable, who lead major American companies operating in every sector of the U.S. economy, I write to convey Business Roundtable's strong support for the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014, S. 2262, and respectfully request that this vital legislation be brought to the Senate floor for a vote as expeditiously as possible.

America's CEOs have consistently called upon Congress and the Administration to adopt a more strategic approach to energy policy that would capitalize on U.S. strengths to promote economic growth, job creation, and enhanced energy security. In our report, Taking Action on Energy: A CEO Vision for America's Energy Future, Business Roundtable laid out a comprehensive plan to boost U.S. energy security and ensure a steady supply of reliable, affordable energy to power increased growth. As noted in that report, energy efficiency improvements over the last quarter century are an American success story and a win-win for the U.S. economy.

A Business Roundtable report released last month, Grow, Sustain: Celebrating Success, highlights the sustainability achievements of Roundtable member companies, including remarkable progress in more efficient energy use. Private-sector innovation and CEO leadership have helped yield a 1.9 percent annual reduction in U.S. energy use per dollar of

economic output (GDP) between 1992 and 2012. These steady energy efficiency improvements are a major strategic advantage for the United States.

Enacting S. 2262 would be an important step toward accelerating U.S. energy efficiency gains and facilitating America's emergence as a global energy superpower. Senate passage of this vital legislation would be a victory for all Americans. We urge you to support S. 2262.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

DAVID M. COTE,
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Honeywell, Chair, Energy and Environment Committee, Business Roundtable.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I think this nontraditional alliance clearly illustrates the sizable and diverse demand for this energy efficiency jobs bill and, simply put, the time is now for the Senate to take up and pass this bipartisan, commonsense proposal to grow our economy and create good-paying jobs for decades. We cannot let our extraneous debates about amendments or nonamendments, what amendments to include, which amendments not to include, to get in the way of getting this legislation done, because this creates jobs, it saves consumers money, and it saves on pollution.

One of the great things about the bill, which I hope we are going to take up in a few minutes, is it includes 10 additional bipartisan amendments. Since our bill was taken up and pulled back from the floor in September, Senator PORTMAN and I have worked closely with Senators from both sides of the aisle to add 10 new bipartisan provisions that expand current sections of our bill.

The new bill has a section that puts in place commonsense and consensus-reached regulatory relief provisions that maintain the underlying principle of advancing energy efficiency in the private sector. As a result of these provisions, the legislation has more energy savings, more job creation, and more carbon dioxide reductions than the previous version of the bill.

I want to briefly talk a little bit about some of the bipartisan amendments, because I think they point out the improvements in the legislation.

Tenant Star builds on the success of EPA's long-running voluntary ENERGY STAR Program for commercial buildings and it creates a similar tenant-oriented certification for leased spaces. Again, it is voluntary. Commercial building tenants who design, construct, and operate their leased spaces in ways that maximize energy efficiency would receive the same kind of public recognition through Tenant Star that ENERGY STAR has produced for so many buildings and businesses.

This bill also includes a provision for energy-efficient schools. Senator SUSAN COLLINS and Senator MARK UDALL have an amendment included that would help schools' energy efficiency and streamline the government's programs to make them run more productively. This would help schools across the country that finance energy efficiency projects to make their buildings operate in a more sustainable fashion.

The legislation also includes Senator BENNET's and Senator ISAKSON's amendment, called the SAVE Act, which would improve the accuracy of mortgage underwriting by including energy efficiency as a factor in determining the value and affordability of homes. It includes a proposal by Senators HOEVEN and PRYOR to create a regulatory exemption for thermal storage water heaters so rural cooperatives and others could continue to use certain large water heaters for their successful demand-response programs.

In addition to what is in this legislation, we have seen in the last several months the House pass energy efficiency legislation, including a number of the provisions that are in the bill we will be taking up today. In fact, the House recently passed an energy efficiency package by an overwhelming 375–36 margin. Those provisions passed by the House are in the version we are introducing of Shaheen-Portman, and it shows how much support for energy efficiency there is throughout the Congress.

We have a real opportunity to pass this legislation. This is a bipartisan, affordable, widely supported bill and, most importantly, an effective first step to address our Nation's very real energy needs.

I thank Senator PORTMAN for his partnership in bringing the bill to the floor. I thank the majority and minority leaders as well as the new energy Chair, Senator LANDRIEU, and Ranking Member MURKOWSKI for their support, and thank former Energy and Natural Resources chairman, Senator RON WYDEN, for his support.

I also thank the legislation's additional cosponsors: Senators AYOTTE, BENNET, COLLINS, the Presiding Officer, Senator COONS, as well as Senators FRANKEN, HOEVEN, ISAKSON, WARNER, and WICKER. I think the list of bipartisan cosponsors indicates the breadth of support for this legislation, that it shows the ideological breadth of support for it.

I look forward to working with Senate leadership and with all of my colleagues in the Senate, because we can pass this legislation, we can create these jobs, we can save consumers money, and we can reduce pollution.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 368, S. 2262, a bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Jeanne Shaheen, Michael F. Bennet, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Bill Nelson, Tom Harkin, Martin Heinrich, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard Blumenthal, Tim Kaine, Patty Murray, Tom Udall, Joe Manchin III, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Angus S. King, Jr., Mark R. Warner.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 368, S. 2262, a bill to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 79, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 131 Leg.]

YEAS—79

Alexander	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Ayotte	Graham	Murphy
Baldwin	Grassley	Murray
Barrasso	Hagan	Nelson
Begich	Harkin	Portman
Bennet	Heinrich	Pryor
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Reed
Blunt	Heller	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Rockefeller
Boxer	Hoeven	Sanders
Brown	Isakson	Schatz
Burr	Johanns	Schumer
Cantwell	Johnson (SD)	Shaheen
Cardin	Kaine	Stabenow
Carper	King	Tester
Casey	Kirk	Thune
Chambliss	Klobuchar	Toomey
Coats	Landrieu	Udall (CO)
Cochran	Leahy	Udall (NM)
Collins	Levin	Walsh
Coons	Manchin	Warner
Corker	Markey	Warren
Donnelly	McCaskill	Whitehouse
Durbin	McConnell	Wicker
Enzi	Menendez	Wyden
Feinstein	Merkley	
Franken	Mikulski	

NAYS—20

Coburn	Inhofe	Roberts
Cornyn	Johnson (WI)	Rubio
Crapo	Lee	Scott
Cruz	McCain	Sessions
Fischer	Moran	Shelby
Flake	Paul	Vitter
Hatch	Risch	

NOT VOTING—1

Boozman

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 79, the nays are 20. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Vermont.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—S. 933

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, next week we are going to commemorate National Police Week, a time when the Nation pays tribute to the sacrifices made by all those who serve in law enforcement, particularly those officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. These law enforcement officers risk their lives every day to protect our communities.

We often speak eloquently on both sides of the aisle here about supporting law enforcement and their families. These tributes are important. They are well deserved. But the police officers in our communities deserve more than speeches; they deserve action and real support. We owe it to all who serve to help protect those who protect us. One important, tangible way to do so is to help provide them with lifesaving bulletproof vests.

For more than 15 years the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program has helped to provide bulletproof vests to law enforcement officers around the country. Republican Senator Ben Nighthorse-Campbell of Colorado and I worked across the aisle to design a program that helps local law enforcement agencies purchase bulletproof vests. We both had a background in law enforcement, and we drew on that. Mr. President, let me show you what has happened. Since 1987, this program has enabled over 13,000 State and local enforcement agencies to purchase over 1 million vests.

No one can dispute that this program saves lives. I will never forget a law enforcement officer who testified before our committee. He had his mother and father and his wife and children sitting behind him in the Judiciary Committee. The distinguished Presiding Officer knows how often we have witnesses speaking and their families are there.

He said: I love law enforcement. I love law enforcement. The only thing I love more than law enforcement is my family. But there came a day as an officer when I thought I would never see my family again.

It was when he stopped somebody in a routine traffic stop. The man came out of the car and shot him twice in the chest. He reached down underneath the witness table and pulled up the vest. You could see the two bullets still stuck in the vest.

He said: I got a cracked rib out of it, but I saw my mother and father and my wife and children. I saw them when I was at the hospital, where they were treating me for the cracked rib. I saw them there. They did not have to go to the morgue to see me.

That story is repeated all the time. No one disputes that this program saves lives. That is why Congress has historically acted quickly and decisively to support the bulletproof vests program. Between 2000 and 2010, the program enjoyed widespread bipartisan support. It was reauthorized three times by unanimous consent. This time around, every single Democratic Senator supports passage of the bill. It is also cosponsored by Senators HAGAN, CARDIN, LANDRIEU, SHAHEEN, PRYOR, and FRANKEN, to name just a few cosponsors. It has many other strong supporters of law enforcement, including the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association, the Major County Sheriffs' Association, and the National Association of Police Organizations.

For reasons I still do not understand, the bill is being blocked on the Republican side. Not a single Republican cosponsor has stepped forward. I cannot understand this. This has never been a partisan issue. It should not be a partisan issue. We are doing this to protect the lives of police officers.

Senator GRASSLEY and I developed a bipartisan reauthorization that included improvements to the program. One important change is that agencies are now given a grant preference for purchasing vests that are uniquely fitted to women officers. There are far more women as police officers today than there were even when Senator Ben Nighthorse-Campbell and I first introduced this bill.

The program is now stronger than ever. I think the vast majority of Senators want to see this program reauthorized. I do not know why Republican Senators have blocked it, especially when we are now protecting, as we had not before, women police officers too. I do not know how we can turn our backs on our police officers.

I would also urge support for the National Blue Alert Act, which was reported by the Judiciary Committee with a strong bipartisan vote. It is sponsored by Senators CARDIN and GRAHAM. I am a proud cosponsor. The bipartisan Justice for All Reauthorization Act, which I coauthored with Republican Senator JOHN CORNYN and which reauthorizes important programs such as the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program—named after a former Republican Senator—is another important bill to law enforcement that we should approve without further delay. It actually defies common sense that any Senator would object to these pieces of legislation.

Next week I will attend, as I almost always do, the National Peace Officers Memorial Service, and there will be a wreath-laying at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, which now contains the names of over 20,000 fallen officers. I remember shortly after I became State's attorney going to the funeral of one of those fallen officers. I have never forgotten that—even though it was decades ago—the long line of police cars, with blue lights flashing. Snow was coming down, and the blue lights reflected off the snowflakes. The names, unfortunately, do not just stop with those over 20,000 fallen officers. The names of 286 fallen officers will be added to its walls, serving as another somber reminder of the brave men and women of law enforcement who risk their lives each and every day. They work tirelessly to keep our communities safe. They deserve our best efforts to do the same for them.

I am, in a moment, going to ask consent that the Senate pass S. 933, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2013. It has always been bipartisan. We should not let ideology put officers' lives at risk now. I commend the fact that every single Democratic Senator supports it and we can honor the service of those who keep us safe by protecting their lives with bulletproof vests.

Frankly, if somebody stands with law enforcement, now is the time to stand with them. I can assure you—and they will assure you—it matters here, and it matters to them.

So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 162, S. 933, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act; that the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Thank you.

The most senior Member of our body understands the differences he and I have on a lot of issues. Most of what he said is true in his statement about the sacrifices and the effectiveness. Where we have a difference of agreement and a difference of understanding is in the enumerated powers of the Constitution of the United States.

The fact is that every individual in this country today owes $50,000 just on the debt, and every family is responsible for $1,100,000 in unfunded liabilities that your children and you will ultimately pay for.

This is not about vests. This is about continuing to do the same thing that got our country in trouble. This is a $120 million authorization with no offset, no cutting of spending anywhere else. If it is a priority, we ought to cut spending somewhere else. But, more importantly, the Constitution lists the enumerated powers, and there is no role for the Federal Government in terms of funding local police departments. It would be nice to do if we were in surplus. We could ignore the enumerated powers. But we are not in surplus. We are borrowing tons of money

every year. We are going to borrow $580 billion this year—$580 billion against the future. And the small thing—this is small. It is only $120 million. I do not object to our police officers having vests. I want them all to have vests. I want all the women to have vests. But it is not a role for the Federal Government. It is a role for my hometown police department in Muskogee, OK. The taxpayers there should protect our police officers.

Our Founders were very clear, and the reason this country is in trouble is we continue to practice outside the parameters of a limited government and take away the responsibility and obligations of State and local communities.

On that basis, I raise an objection and do not agree.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. LEAHY. Well, Mr. President, I am sorry to hear this. I hear people who supported a useless war in Iraq, and they will talk about how much money we spend. It was the first time in America's history——

Mr. COBURN. Will the Senator yield for a moment, just for a question?

Is the Senator aware that I never voted for any of the money for that spending?

(Ms. HEITKAMP assumed the Chair.)

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, if the Senator will go back to what I said, it did not refer to him.

I worry about those, however, who voted for that war and did not vote to stop that war and voted for the very first time that this country has ever gone to war in its history without a tax to pay for it. We voted for it on a credit card—an unnecessary war, a war that hurt the interests of the United States, and it will eventually cost us $2 trillion. Nobody—nobody—talks about paying for that. But to protect the police officers, who are on the street every day protecting us, oh, we cannot do that. We cannot do that, even though we have done so before.

I could name the six police officers who were killed in Oklahoma. I am not going to. I am not trying to make this personal. But the Presiding Officer understands law enforcement. She supported this. Everybody on this side of the aisle supports it. It is to protect our police officers.

We will spend $2 trillion on a useless war, but we will not spend a tiny fraction of 1 percent—one one-thousandth of 1 percent—to support our men and women, especially when we now have a provision in here to protect women police officers as well as men police officers. What could be more—what could be more—nonpartisan than this? That is why Senator Ben Nighthorse-Campbell and I joined together, why Republicans and Democrats have joined together.

I am proud that every Democratic Senator is in favor of this legislation. I wish the Republicans would lift their objection. We should pass this bill. If you stand with law enforcement, then you need to stand with them when it matters most. I can assure you—and they can assure you—it matters here, and it matters now.

I yield the floor. I think I have expressed my dismay that the other side of the aisle would not stand up to protect these police officers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I come to the floor to speak about the issue that is before us now on the floor, the energy efficiency act, led by Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN.

The issue the Senators from Oklahoma and Vermont just spoke about is extremely important, and there will be, I am sure, appropriate time to debate that issue. I thank Senator LEAHY for his extraordinary leadership for the safety and support of our police officers, for the many, literally dozens of years—decades—he has served, and he continues to do a magnificent job, and I will be supporting him in those efforts.

But I came to the floor to speak today about the bill that is now before us, with a vote of 79 votes—a very strong bipartisan signal that Republicans and Democrats would like to debate an energy efficiency bill that came out of the Energy Committee on a vote of 19 to 3.

I just became the chair of this committee, but I have served on it now for almost 18 years and just a few weeks ago became the chair. I have had the privilege to work with Republican and Democratic chairs of this committee. I am excited about the opportunity to try to find a path forward with the Presiding Officer, who has been, although not a member of the committee, an absolutely outstanding leader on energy issues since arriving in the Senate, and really look forward to working with her and Members from both sides of the aisle to actually deliver what I think the American people want: a sensible mainstream energy policy for America that increases domestic energy production, efficiency, and conservation; creates millions of jobs right here at home; makes us more energy secure and energy independent; and works with our friends, not our enemies.

I think we can get it done. I have been in the Senate long enough to know that things aren't easy, but I refuse to be cynical. I refuse to be, woe is me, the world is coming to an end, which I hear a lot around here. I think there are a lot of positive things going on in the country.

In the Presiding Officer's home State, North Dakota, I think there is zero unemployment. I think we come in second at about 4.5 percent unemployment in Louisiana because we are busy working—not fighting but working—together to produce energy jobs for the country.

I was very proud to support this efficiency bill in committee. I would like, of course, to see some additional things added to it, but to move it forward—I voted for it to move this bill forward to the floor.

When I became the chair of the committee, I had committed to RON WYDEN, the former chair, and LISA MURKOWSKI, the ranking member—which it is really their work, along with Senators SHAHEEN and PORTMAN, two outstanding members of the committee—to see what I could do to move this bill forward.

I wanted to talk a minute about why this is important and frame this in a way that our Members can understand it.

First—I am going to talk about the bill itself in a minute, but let me just step back and say this: There have been 302 bills filed in this Congress that relate to energy that have been sent to our committee for review. I am sad to say, and I think my constituents and others will be disappointed to hear, that only 13 of those bills have become law. I want to repeat that: 302 bills have been referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources since the beginning of this Congress and only 13 have become law. One of the reasons I wanted to bring the energy efficiency bill to the floor is because I think we need to make that 14.

I think this record is pretty dismal, and this is not a negative statement to the leadership of the committee prior to my being there. It is rather a reflection on the lack of cooperation that we are getting either at the committee level or in the Senate. It most certainly is not a reflection on the talents of the former chairman, RON WYDEN, and LISA MURKOWSKI, who couldn't have worked—and this is sort of the sad underpinning. You couldn't find two leaders who tried to work together more than these two. I know because I have sat next to them on that committee for 18 years and I have watched them. I am an eyewitness to their cordial, respectful conversations, both on and off the committee, when the cameras were on and when the cameras were off. Nobody can question this or deny it because everyone knows it is true, and there are many eyewitnesses besides myself.

The question becomes, if a committee has two people who are working well together, a committee that is as important in jurisdiction as Energy and Natural Resources is in this country, how is it possible that we can only get 13 out of 302 bills passed? That is a very interesting question. Why couldn't we get 14 done this week? That is why I brought this bill to the floor or asked for it to come to the floor, particularly because it is important to both Democrats and Republicans.

Let's talk for a minute about how important this bill is. I have 10 pages of a single-spaced list of businesses, organizations that support this Shaheen-Portman bill, which I will submit for the RECORD. Remember, it came out of committee, one of the few of the 300 filed, on a 19-to-3 vote.

There are roughly 200 organizations and businesses. I am going to submit all of their names for the RECORD, but I just wanted to read a few, to understand the breadth of support for this bill before I talk about what this bill does. They are: Alcoa, American Air, Inc., Aspen Skiing Company, BAE Systems, Caterpillar Inc., Dow Corning, Eastern Mountain Sports, Intel, International Paper, Owens Corning, Raytheon Company—one of the largest in the world, Solar Turbines Incorporated, Universal Lighting, American Jewish Committee, Christian Coalition, ConservAmerica, Earth Day Network, the National Wildlife Federation, the American Chemistry Council, American Lighting Association, Consumer Federation of America, League of Women Voters, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the list of endorsements.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT (SHAHEEN-PORTMAN) ENDORSEMENTS

BUSINESSES:

A.O. Smith; Aberdeen Mechanical; ABM Energy; Acuity Brands Lighting; Alcoa; American Air, Inc.; American Power Conversion; Anvil Knitwear; Aspen Skiing Company; AT&T; Autodesk; Avon Lake Sheet Metal Co.; BAE Systems; Baldor; BASF; Bayer; Best Buy; BJB Electric L.P.; The Brewer-Garrett Co.; Bosch; Capital E; Capstone Turbine Corporation; Caterpillar Inc.; Castle Heating & Air, Inc.

Clif Bar; CLC Associates; Cooper; Coulomb Technologies; Creston Electronics; D. L. Page, Inc.; Danfoss; Deco Lighting; Direct Energy; Dow Corning; Duct Fabricators, Incorporated; DwellTek Home Energy Solutions; Eastern Mountain Sports; Eaton Corporation; eBay Inc.; ECOtality; EDA Architecture; Eileen Fisher; eMeter; Energy Platforms; EnerNOC; EnLink GeoEnergy; FlexEnergy; Frank & Fric. Inc.; Fresh Energy; Fulton & Associates Balance Company; G&W Electric; Geauga Mechanical Co., Inc.; General Electric; Gilbert Industries, INC.

Guardian Industries; Graftech; Green Strategies, Inc.; HAVE, Inc.; Honeywell; HUBBELL INCORPORATED; Imperial Heating & Cooling, Inc.; Industrial First, Inc.; Infineon Technologies; Ingersoll Rand; Intel; International Paper; Itron; JELD-WEN; Johns Manville; Johnson Controls; Kaiserman Company; Knauf Insulation; LEDnovation; Legrand; Lennox International; Leviton; Levi Strauss and Co.; Linde; Litetronics International Inc.; LumenOptix; Luminus Devices, Inc.; Lutron; Luxury Heating Co.; Magnaray.

Masco Corporation; Middle Atlantic; Miles Mechanical, Inc.; Nalco, an Ecolab Company; National Grid USA; Nexans USA Inc.; Northern Ohio Roofing & Sheet Metal Inc.; Orion Energy Systems; OSRAM SYLVANIA; Owens Corning; Owens Illinois; Panasonic Corporation of North America; Philips Electronics; PPG; Professional Balance Company (dba PBC, Inc.); Quanex; RAB Lighting; Raytheon Company; Recycled Energy Development; Regal-Beloit; RESNET; Rinnai America Corporation; Robert Bosch LLC; Robertshaw Controls Company dba. Invensys Controls; Rockwell Automation; RPM; Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc.; Saint-Gobain; Schneider Electric; Schweizer Dipple, Inc.

Sibley, Inc.; Siemens Corporation; Sika Corporation; SimplexGrinnell; Solar Turbines Incorporated; SPRI, Inc.; Stonyfield Farm; Symantec; T. H. Martin Inc.; TE Connectivity; TECO Westinghouse Motor Company; Tendril; TerraLUX; The Dow Chemical Company; The Stella Group, Ltd.; Thomas & Betts; Trane; TRI-C Sheet Metal, Inc.; United Technologies Corporation; Universal Lighting; Ushio America; Vantage; Veka Inc.; Vinyl Siding Institute; Watkins Manufacturing; WattStopper; Westinghouse Lighting Corporation; Willham Roofing Co., Inc.; Whirlpool Corporation.

FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS

American Jewish Committee, Christian Coalition, Interfaith Power and Light, Union for Reform Judaism.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES

Clean Air-Cool Planet, Clean Water Action, Climate Solutions, Conservation Law Foundation, Conservation Services Group, ConservAmerica, Earth Day Network, Environment America, Environment Northeast, Environmental Defense Fund, Environmental and Energy Study Institute, Environmental Law and Policy Center, League of Conservation Voters, Massachusetts Climate Action Network, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, World Wildlife Fund, The Wilderness Society, Oregon Environmental Council, Earthjustice.

TRADE ASSOCIATIONS/THINK TANKS

Adhesive and Sealant Council, Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute, Alliance for Industrial Efficiency, Alliance to Save Energy, American Architectural Manufacturers Association, American Chemical Society, American Chemistry Council, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, American Institute of Architects, American Lighting Association, American Public Power Association, Appliance Standards Awareness Project, ASHRAE, Association of Pool & Spa Professionals, Association of State Energy Research and Technology Transfer Institutions (ASERTTI), Bipartisan Policy Center, Business Council for Sustainable Energy, Business for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy, Business Roundtable, Boulder Green Building Guild, Cellulose Insulation Manufacturers Association, Center for the Celebration of Creation, Center for Environmental Innovation in Roofing, Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture), Combined Heat and Power Association, Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, Copper Development Association, Council of North American Insulation Manufactures Association, Digital Energy & Sustainability Solutions Campaign (DESSC), Efficiency First.

Energy Future Coalition, Federal Performance Contracting Coalition, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Geothermal Exchange Organization, Green Building Initiative, Habitat for Humanity International, Illuminating Engineering Society, Industrial Energy Efficiency Coalition, Industrial Minerals Association, Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC), Institute for Market Transformation, Institute for Sustainable Communities, International Association of Lighting Designers, International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, International Copper Association, Ltd., International District Energy Association, Large Public Power Council, League of Women Voters, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA), NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association, National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSP), National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO), National Association of Manufacturers, National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), National Community Action Foundation, National Electrical Manufacturers Association, National Restaurant Association, National Roofing Contracting Association (NRCA), National Small Business Association (NSBA), National U.S. Clean Heat & Power Association.

New England Council, New England Fuel Institute, North Carolina Chamber, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP), Northwest Energy Coalition, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, Northwest Energy Efficiency Council, Ohio Business Council for a Clean Economy, Ohio Chemistry Technology Council, Ohio Manufacturers Association, Ohio Petroleum Marketers & Convenience Store Association, Oil Heat Council of New Hampshire, Oil & Energy Service Professionals, Oregon Environmental Council, Outdoor Industry Association, Petroleum Marketers Association of America, PEW Charitable Trusts, Plumbing Manufacturers International, Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA), Rebuilding Together, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractor's National Association (SMACNA), Solar Energy Industries Association, Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA), Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association, The Aluminum Association, The Vinyl Institute, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, U.S. Conference of Mayors, U.S. Green Buildings Council, Utah Clean Energy, Union of Concerned Scientists, Vinyl Building Council, Window and Door Manufacturers Association.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I could go on and on, but the point I think is clear. There are organizations from the left, the right, the center, large and small, business coalitions, consumer coalitions, saying act now on energy efficiency.

We may not be able to, and I doubt sincerely that in the next 4 days on floor of the Senate we can draft an energy policy for America. That would be a bar set a little too high for what we will be able to do between Tuesday and Friday.

But we could do two important things for the country: pass this energy efficiency bill and pass the Keystone Pipeline, something I am proud to vote for. You will vote for it. It is a piece of the energy infrastructure this country needs, this country deserves, and we need to move forward on it.

So in the spirit of balance, compromise, fairness, and common sense—which we are not finding around here very often—I thought: Let's see. We have an energy efficiency bill that is supported by an extraordinarily broad and deep coalition of businesspeople and supported by two of the most respected Members of this body.

May I remind everyone, JEANNE SHAHEEN was a Governor before she was a Senator. She has been serving for decades in public office and is well known and well respected.

BOB PORTMAN is not only a Senator from Ohio but was formerly the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, OMB, so he understands about finance, cost, and savings. I don't think either he or JEANNE SHAHEEN would have put their names on this bill,

which they have been working on now for 5 years. This is not an election-year bill, as some would call it. This is a 5-year, very hard effort by these two wonderful legislators to provide a bill the country needs. So why aren't we all jumping up and down voting for it? That is a good question.

ROB PORTMAN, who was also the U.S. Trade Representative under the Bush administration and saw firsthand when Congress passed very poorly thought-out bills or made mistakes in bills we passed, and seeing so many jobs leaving to go to China and India, probably jumped on a chance to create jobs in America. Thank goodness for ROB PORTMAN. That is what our energy efficiency bill does. It creates jobs for America.

When I go home and I am out in my parishes, whether it is Tangipahoa Parish or Richland Parish or De Soto Parish or Caddo Parish or East Baton Rouge or Orleans Parish, people look at me and say: Senator, I don't know why everybody is yelling and screaming in Washington. I don't know why everybody is yelling and screaming about the President or this or that. Would you please tell them we want high-paying jobs.

Yes, raising the minimum wage is important. I am voting for the minimum wage. People don't want to make the minimum wage. They want to make $40-, $50-, $60-, $70,000 a year. They want an income for their families so their kids can go to school, go to college, so they can live in their homes and retire securely. Do you think you can do that at a minimum wage, whether it is $7 an hour or $10 an hour? No.

We have a bill on the floor that is going to create American jobs with American manufacturers—maybe not all U.S. technology because frankly we get good energy efficiency technology from around the world, but Americans are very good at this—very good at it. In fact, it is so good that in an old graph—which I am going to have updated and blown up because no one can see this but me, unfortunately, because it is so small. If the cameras can pick it up—and I am going to have it updated by this afternoon—we can see that it says, ''Energy Efficiency: America's Greatest Energy Resource.''

Energy efficiency supplies 52 percent of our overall resources, petroleum is 35, natural gas is 23, coal is 19, and nuclear is 8.

Think about energy efficiency as our Nation's greatest resource. Energy savings from efficiency are real and save Americans money. Since 1970, energy efficiency improvements have reduced U.S. energy costs by about $700 billion from what it would have been otherwise.

When we think about energy saved, it is the cleanest energy. It is completely or almost completely American because we are the ones saving it. We may import a little of that technology from other places, but it is all American, all day, all clean. Why aren't we doing it?

The other side—and I know Senator THUNE is going to speak in a minute—said energy efficiency is not enough for us. We want to build the Keystone Pipeline, so I agree. I agree. I think it is time to do both; to do this energy efficiency bill, to build the Keystone Pipeline. Why? Not because I don't respect the process but because the process is over—5 years, 5 studies as required by law. Five studies were completed, the last of which was a State Department study that concluded it is actually environmentally safer to transport oil from Canada, from the oil sands in Canada to the refineries along the gulf coast to provide energy for this Nation and create anywhere from 30- to 50,000 jobs, depending on conservative or liberal facts, talking points, to create jobs and to put America and Canada closer together. We already are together but even closer together to be a North American energy powerhouse.

Canada has very high—as the Presiding Officer knows because she visited the oil sands. I am looking forward to going as soon as I can, but I do know, because she shared her experiences with me, that it is very spectacular to see the environmental safeguards Canada has used to produce this resource that is so important to them in the Alberta Province and to us.

Why not have an energy efficiency bill that is very popular with Democrats and supported by Republicans and then an energy piece, just a piece, not the whole energy policy of the world, not the whole energy policy of the United States but two important pillars, efficiency and production, put them together, try to find compromise and move it forward on these two pieces of legislation. Then we can get it over to the House, let the House decide if they will do it, and move it to the President's desk separately because the President has powers in the Constitution, and we have our own powers.

One would think that would make a lot of sense, and this is what I was hoping to do by asking the leadership to allow the Shaheen-Portman bill to come to the floor. But evidently, as balanced, as fair as that sounds, I think it is unfortunately probably not going to be sufficient to move this issue forward. We shall see. We are going to open this for debate.

I wish the debate could be about energy efficiency and the importance of this bill, things that might improve this bill relative to energy efficiency and not on other matters that both sides know do not have this kind of broad-based support.

Some of the matters colleagues want to file as amendments that are pending, or those I know of that might come to the floor, have not even come through our committee. This bill did come through the committee on a 19-to-3 vote. While the Keystone Pipeline has not yet come through committee, it can come to this floor and there may be enough votes to pass it—very, very close. We have about 57 to 58 votes, as I stand here. We need two or three or four more. We might get those votes as the debate goes on and as people listen to the importance of promoting America as an energy superpower.

I will talk more about that later in the week. I have a lot more to say about the importance of the Keystone Pipeline. But for right now, I want to ask colleagues on both sides of the aisle to really think about the benefits to their districts, to their people, and to our country, to support the energy efficiency bill and to agree on a vote on the Keystone Pipeline in hopes of getting a balanced effort moving forward.

There will be time to talk about other issues that are much more controversial. Although I support many of them, they are much more controversial, if you can believe it, than these two. Even though Keystone is controversial, we still have almost 60 votes, so it is worth trying for. So that is my pitch—to try to be as cooperative as we can.

I think Leader REID has been extremely reasonable in allowing the efficiency bill to come to the floor, knowing there are lots—hundreds—of amendments that could be talked about and that are extraneous to this issue. Technically, he is agreeing to a stand-alone vote on Keystone, which is a big concession for the leader of a party where the majority of our Members, unfortunately, aren't supporting it. I support it, Senator BEGICH supports it, Senator TESTER supports it, and Senator HEITKAMP supports it. But my friends on the Republican side should understand that when BOEHNER says he can't take up an issue unless a majority of his caucus is for it, they all jump up and down and say: Go Speaker BOEHNER, yes. That is the way to go. Yet when HARRY REID stands up and says, listen, I am going as far as I can go here—the majority of my caucus doesn't even support Keystone, but I am going to allow a vote on it—my Republican colleagues want to just push that aside as if he is not cooperating. It is disingenuous, it is hypocritical, and it is unfair.

Now, Harry can fight his own battles. He doesn't need me to fight them for him. But let me just say to the other side that I don't want to hear anything from you all: Well, we can't get that done because even though we have the votes in the House, we don't have a majority of Republicans. This is about Republicans and Democrats sometimes crossing the aisle to do what is right for our country and not being held hostage by the side wings of our parties. I wish I had a little more help around here doing that.

Anyway, we will give it the old college try and try to get this energy efficiency bill through and get an up-or-down vote on the Keystone Pipeline. If people cooperate, we will get it done. If not, we will have had only 13 bills passed out of this Congress from the

energy committee, and we will have to roll up our sleeves and go back to work and figure out a better approach. This is the best one I could come up with. It may work; it may not.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of my remarks, the Senator from Wyoming Mr. BARRASSO be recognized, followed by the Senator from Arkansas Mr. PRYOR.

Madam President, I modify the unanimous consent request and ask that Senator PRYOR be recognized at the conclusion of my remarks, followed by Senator BARRASSO.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, yesterday USA Today and the Pew Research Center released a new poll that found Americans, by more than a 2-to-1 margin, were dissatisfied with the direction the country is going. Sixty-two percent of Americans rate their personal financial situation as poor or fair. A whopping 65 percent want the next President to pursue policies different from those of the current President.

What I would suggest is that the American people are tired—they are tired of seeing their bills go up while their paychecks don't. They are tired of having to work harder just to stay in place—to say nothing of getting ahead. They are tired of economic promises that are often repeated but never fulfilled.

Our economy has supposedly been in recovery for years, but it is a recovery that feels a lot like a recession to ordinary hardworking Americans. More than 10 million Americans are unemployed, and more than one-third of them have been out of work for more than 6 months.

While unemployment finally declined last month, the decline was driven more by the fact that 806,000 Americans dropped out of the workforce entirely than by any meaningful surge in the number of those who are employed. Had the number of Americans participating in the labor force stayed flat last month, the unemployment rate would have actually gone up, not down. In fact, if the labor force participation rate today were the same as it was when President Obama took office, our Nation would have an unemployment rate of 10.4 percent.

So what is happening is more and more people are leaving the labor force. They are completely discouraged. But the labor force participation rate has fallen, and one of the main reasons it has fallen is because so many Americans have grown so discouraged that they have given up looking for work entirely.

Our country has experienced recessions before, but we have always bounced back. But our recovery from this recession has been so slow—at times, seemingly nonexistent—that many are wondering if the last 5 years of sluggish growth and recession-level unemployment could be the new normal. And they are right; it could be, if we continue the policies of the last 5 years.

The widespread dissatisfaction with the economy reflected in the Pew poll may not be what Democrats want to see, but it is the natural outcome of their policies. They have spent 5 years pursuing policies that have not only been unsuccessful in creating jobs but have all too frequently actually hurt job creation.

Take ObamaCare. It is hard to even know where to start when talking about the damage ObamaCare is wreaking on the jobs and the economy. There is the ObamaCare tax on lifesaving medical devices, such as pacemakers and insulin pumps, which has cost thousands of jobs in this industry already and is going to cost thousands more. There is the 30-hour workweek rule, which has forced businesses, State and local governments, and nonprofits to cut the hours of workers in this country. There is the employer mandate, which has caused many businesses to rethink their plans to expand and hire new workers. Then, of course, there is the burden the law places on small businesses.

The title of an article that appeared in the Las Vegas Review Journal over the weekend summed it up nicely, and the headline went like this: ''Own a small business? Brace for ObamaCare pain.'' This article pointed out something that is often overlooked in discussions of the law—that the people who will suffer the most from the small business health plan cancellations that ObamaCare will cause in Nevada and around the country are those who can least afford it—the kind of people the law was supposed to help.

To quote from the article:

> Some workers are at higher risk than others of losing company-sponsored coverage. Professional, white-collar companies such as law or engineering firms will bite the bullet and renew at higher prices. . . . But moderately skilled or low-skilled people making $8 to $14 an hour working for landscaping businesses, fire prevention firms or fencing companies could lose work-based coverage because the plans cost so much relative to salaries.

That is right, Madam President. It is low-income workers in places like Nevada who stand in the greatest danger of losing their employer-sponsored coverage. That is frequently the story when it comes to the Democrats' so-called job-creating policies. Democrats like to suggest that Republicans are indifferent to workers' plight, and that only Democrats really have a plan to offer help. But in fact the Democrats' plans to help often pose the most danger to low-income workers.

There is ObamaCare, of course, as I mentioned, but there is also the minimum wage proposal, which the Congressional Budget Office says will eliminate up to 1 million jobs. Those 1 million jobs that will be eliminated are not doctors' jobs and they are not lawyers' jobs. They are positions held by low-income workers who will be the first to suffer when employers have to cut back on hiring or on hours as a result of the minimum wage hike.

Then, of course, there is the Keystone Pipeline, which we are talking a little about today, and which the President has resolutely refused to approve, despite the fact that it would support, according to his own State Department estimates, 42,000 jobs without spending a dime of taxpayer money.

The people who will be hurt the worst by the President's decision to cow to the relentless pressure of far-left environmentalists are the workers who would actually build the pipeline and the restaurants and small businesses who would benefit from pipeline workers' business during construction.

It is not just Keystone. Almost all of the President's energy policies would do serious damage to our economy and to working Americans. Take the restrictions on ground-level ozone levels the President's EPA is scheduled to release by December of this year.

In 2010, the EPA proposed lowering the permitted ozone levels from 75 parts per billion to 60 to 70 parts per billion. Energy industry estimates suggest that lowering the ground-level ozone concentration to 60 parts per billion would cost businesses—get this—more than $1 trillion per year—$1 trillion per year—between 2020 and 2030. Job losses as a result of this measure would total a staggering 7.3 million by 2020, devastating entire industries—most especially U.S. manufacturing. My own State of South Dakota would lose tens of thousands of jobs in manufacturing, natural resources and mining, and construction.

Take a look at what this would actually do. These are the areas under these proposals that have been put forward. Today there are probably a couple hundred counties in the country that are not in compliance, in what we call nonattainment areas—mostly urban, heavily populated areas. But if we take a look at what their proposal would do on this map, this map represents those who would be affected if we went to 60 parts per billion as opposed to the 75 parts per billion today.

So instead of focusing on those counties in this country that are not currently in attainment and getting them to full attainment first, we are talking about expanding dramatically the impact this would have all across the country.

Look at my State of South Dakota, for example. We have areas that wouldn't be in attainment. We don't think of South Dakota as being a place where we have problems with clean air and ozone issues, but this is clearly a regulation which, if put into effect, would cost the economy literally billions and billions of dollars—in one estimate $1 trillion per year between 2020 and 2030.

If we look at where this hurts people the most, again, it is the people who are in the lower and middle-income range—people whose budgets are more heavily affected by hikes in their energy bills.

Today the President will hold press events to raise the alarm about climate change and push for more job-killing, industry crippling energy policies, but it will be interesting to see if he spares a line or two for the millions of Americans whose jobs will be lost and whose household budgets will be shattered as a result of his proposals.

This week the Senate is going to be considering the Shaheen-Portman energy legislation. I plan to introduce three amendments to check EPA overreach and to protect American workers from the devastating effects of the EPA's ground-level ozone and greenhouse gas proposal.

The first amendment will require Congress to vote up or down on any EPA regulation that has an annual cost of more than $1 billion. Pretty straightforward. Let the people's representatives vote. If they are going to put regulations out there that are going to cost more than $1 billion, let us have Congress vote on those.

The second amendment would prohibit the EPA from finalizing greenhouse gas regulations for new and existing power plants if the Department of Energy and the GAO determine those regulations will raise energy prices or cost jobs. So if the Department of Energy and the GAO determine the regulations will not impact jobs or energy prices, the EPA can go forward and finalize those regulations.

It is time to be honest with the American people about the cost of these regulations. Taken together, these two amendments are a strong step toward placing a check on EPA's regulatory train wreck.

The final amendment I will offer is specific to the administration's upcoming proposal on ground-level ozone, which as I just mentioned is the most expensive regulation in EPA's history. The cost of this regulation is so great that when the EPA first proposed lower levels in 2010, the White House delayed those regulations until after the President's reelection.

My amendment is straightforward.

First, it would require the EPA to consider the costs and feasibility of new ozone regulations. Many Americans would be surprised to know the EPA isn't even allowed to consider costs when setting these new regulations. My amendment would fix that.

Additionally, my amendment would force the EPA to focus on the worst areas for smog before dramatically expanding this regulation to the rest of the country. As I mentioned on the map here, 221 counties across 27 States don't even meet the current standard of 75 parts per billion. It makes sense to focus on these urban areas before expanding ozone regulations to places such as western South Dakota, where we clearly don't have a smog problem.

Under my amendment, 85 percent of these counties would have to achieve full compliance with the existing standard before the EPA can move forward with a lower level which dramatically expands the reach of ozone regulations. I hope the Senate will get the chance to vote on these proposals.

I also hope the Senate will get a chance to vote on the Keystone amendment so we can get those 42,000 jobs opened to American workers.

It has been a long time since we have had a real energy debate in the Senate. But given our sluggish economy and the danger the President's energy proposals pose to any future growth, I am hoping the majority leader will decide it is time for a debate.

The election-year agenda offered by Democrats and the President is just more of the same job-killing, growth-stifling legislation that Democrats have been offering for the past 5 years. Like the legislation the Democrats and the President have offered for the last 5 years, it will do the worst injury to those Americans who can least afford it.

Pundits may warn that our current economic malaise is the new normal, but it doesn't have to be that way. We can get the economy going again. We can lift the heavy burden of government regulation and free businesses to grow and create jobs. We can make it easier, not harder, for middle-class workers to find stability and for lower income workers to make it into the middle class.

According to the Pew/USA Today poll, 65 percent of Americans want the next President to pursue different policies. It is still a couple more years until the next Presidential election, but there is no reason Congress can't start pursuing different policies today. The American people have been struggling for long enough.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

OPERATION RAZORBACK-GUATEMALA

Mr. PRYOR. Madam President, I thank my colleague who allowed me to jump in front of him in the line. I appreciate that.

I am sorry for my voice today. I sound a little bit like Daffy Duck, but I have a cold, and I am working through that right now.

I rise today to speak for a few minutes about something in this country we take for granted—and that is electricity.

Ever since the Rural Electrification Act back in the 1930s passed, for the most part every person in this country has had access to electricity. I know there are a few exceptions, but basically that program has worked extremely well and continues to work. As the Presiding Officer, who comes from a rural State, knows, sometimes we have investor-owned facilities, sometimes we have these cooperative type utilities, and sometimes we have even municipalities.

I rise today to focus on something the Arkansas electric cooperatives have been involved in, and I thank 25 power linemen in the 12 electric coops in Arkansas who recently completed a mission to electrify two remote Guatemalan villages. Combined with a 2013 project, Arkansas electric cooperative linemen have assisted in providing electric service to more than 770 rural Guatemalan residents who otherwise would not have electricity. This is the first time these people have ever had electricity in their lives.

This rural electrification initiative is part of Arkansas's Operation Razorback-Guatemala that started in 2012 in cooperation with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International. After a year of planning, the linemen arrived in Guatemala on March 26 and then traveled approximately 9 hours to the remote villages of Las Flores and La Hacienda to ''light up'' the land. I commend them for giving their time, energy, and know-how to improve the lives of hundreds of Guatemalans who before this did not even know—because electricity is a critical element to improving the quality of life—the quality of health care, the quality of education, and some of the basics that, again, we often take for granted in this country—such as clean water and many other vital services.

This area in Guatemala processes and exports coffee beans that end up at companies such as NESCAFE, McDonald's, Starbucks, and other coffee outlets. This new reliable access to electricity will help these villagers increase the quantity and quality of their locally grown coffee, resulting in economic prosperity and a better quality of life for present and future generations. So they will be even more connected with the global economy because of what these people from the Arkansas electric coops did to help these folks.

Senator BOOZMAN could not be here today; otherwise, he would be here sitting at his desk saying a few words. But he did pass on for me a brief statement he wanted me to read:

> We are proud of Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas's willingness to support people around the world who need safe, affordable and reliable electricity. Operation Razorback has been a real success that will result in improved economic prosperity, a higher quality of life and more opportunities for Guatemalans today and for future generations. Sharing our knowledge, expertise and technology will make a lasting impact. These Guatemalan villages will never be the same thanks to the progress made by the volunteers of Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas.

We have a few of those people with us today, and I wish to recognize them: Duane Highley, who is the CEO; Kirkley Thomas, who is the vice president of the Arkansas Electric Cooperative Corporation in Arkansas; Mel Coleman, CEO of the North Arkansas Electric Cooperative; Paul Garrison, one of the linemen who actually went on the trip.

I asked him earlier: What is the first thing these people will get? He said: Lights. Naturally that is what they are going to try to get.

Again, we appreciate them. And also, Jo Ann Emerson, a long-time friend and colleague on the House side, president and CEO of NRECA.

In addition to donating their time and raising more than $100,000 to support this electrification effort, the group also trained local linemen, donated power infrastructure materials, and distributed humanitarian aid items to these local villages.

I again thank the coops and acknowledge them for how they are making not only Arkansas better but also making the world better.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, today President Obama is doing televised events talking about climate change. According to press reports, the President is ready to pivot to the environment as an issue.

Well, I also want to talk about environmental stewardship today. I want to talk about what is going on in some of our States, where they are actually doing something, not just talking about it.

Today the Senate and Congressional Western Caucuses are issuing a new report called ''Washington Gets it Wrong—States Get it Right.''

The report shows how regulations imposed by Washington are undermining the work being done at the State level to manage our lands, our natural resources, and to protect our air and water.

More often than not, Washington regulations and one-size-fits-all mandates do get it wrong. In the West we take very seriously our commitment to ensuring the health and viability of land, wildlife, and the environment. That is at both the local and the State levels.

Federal agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Interior like to think of themselves as the ultimate protectors of our Nation's skies and open spaces. But we have seen time and time again that the work being done at the State level is more reasonable, more effective, and certainly less heavyhanded.

Thousands of people are working across the West to protect their communities. These are people who live in the West, not bureaucrats in Washington offices. Nobody is better qualified than the folks who actually live in the West, because they actually walk the land and breathe the air—the land and the air they are trying to protect.

So our report looks at the work being done by State agencies to protect not just the land they live and work on but also the people who rely on the health and safety of that land.

As this report demonstrates, extreme regulations imposed by Washington undermine the work being done at the State level, whether it is to manage lands and natural resources, protect air and water, or conserve species.

When we look at the work of these State agencies—as the Western Caucuses have done in this report—it is clear that when it comes to conservation and environmental efforts, the States do get it right. More often than not, Washington gets it wrong.

It is time for Washington to stop its overreaching regulations and the continual drip, drip, drip of mandates. It is time for Washington to stop getting it wrong and start recognizing how States get it right.

The report has details about specific things different States are doing, but I want to mention four categories where States are leading the way when it comes to environmental stewardship.

The first is protecting species on the ground. This includes conservation policies that States are developing, where they work with industry and landowners to protect species without hampering multiple-use policies; that is, multiple use of the land.

Second, States are showing the right way to protect our water, land, and air. They are putting in place ideas that are tailored to the needs of their own communities. They are actually looking at what is unique about their State and the best way for people to solve problems locally.

Third, States are promoting access to fish and wildlife. States understand they need to manage and protect lands and waters in a way that allows for public spaces to be enjoyed. That means ensuring those spaces remain intact for future generations. These are called natural resources for a reason—they are meant to be enjoyed by all of us, not sealed off under Washington's lock and key.

Fourth, the report looks at what States are doing right when it comes to in-state scientific and support staff. State agencies are employing thousands of people who live in the communities they are trying to protect.

Who has more incentive to protect the local environment? The people who are living there, the people who are working there, and the people who are raising their children in these communities, or some bureaucrats locked in a Washington, DC office? Who knows more about the specific unique features of a State or local area and what will work best there?

The Senate and Congressional Western Caucuses have put out this report to highlight just a few of the State initiatives we believe are working. I hope the President will take some time today to not just talk but to actually listen and to read our report and see some of the ways States are getting it right and Washington is getting it wrong.

If others are interested and wish to read the report, they can certainly find it at my Web site, www.barrasso.senate.gov.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:43 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair until 2:43 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

THE ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, Americans understand the relationship between affordable energy and a stronger economy. They understand it. They may not know all the numbers, but intuitively they know in their gut that affordable energy is critical to a sound and strong economy.

Between 2008 and 2013, America suffered through a financial crisis—a deep recession, sometimes called the great recession. There was nothing great about it because it turned our country and our economy on its head, and it resulted in the highest level of unemployment since the Great Depression. Yet over the same period of time, U.S. production of oil increased by 50 percent.

Meanwhile, from 2007 to 2012, America's production of shale oil increased by an astounding 18-fold while our production of gas grew by more than 50 percent. In fact, it is now projected that the United States could well be a net exporter of natural gas. The terminals that were built along the gulf coast and elsewhere to try to facilitate the importation of natural gas are now being retrofitted and turned around so that the excess natural gas produced right here in the U.S.A. is available to export.

As we have learned, among other things, this could change the geopolitics of the globe. If America and the rest of the world no longer depend on the Middle East—and if Europe and Ukraine are no longer dependent on Russia—for their sole supply of energy and oil, it could change the world as we know it.

Well, as I started out by saying people understand the relationship between affordable energy and a stronger economy, nowhere else do they understand it any better than in Bismarck, ND, or in the Permian Basin in Texas. Those are the two places, the last time I checked, that had the lowest level of unemployment in the country, and it is not a coincidence. These are places that are producing huge volumes of American oil and natural gas, and it is creating a lot of jobs in the process.

In short, even amid a difficult period of economic stagnation, America has

been experiencing a true revolution in domestic energy output. This is a little bit inside baseball, but a few years ago people were talking about peak oil, as if all of the oil that could be discovered had been discovered in the world; we were running out. Well, obviously, that has proven not to be true. But, as I said, all you need to do is to visit the Permian Basin in West Texas, the Eagle Ford Shale region in South Texas or the Barnett Shale region in North Texas and see what happens when America is a good steward of the natural resources we have been provided.

The numbers in my State are really amazing—in the great State of Texas. During the month of February, our State's average daily oil production hit a 28-year high—a 28-year high—as we produced more than 2 million barrels of oil a day. What does that mean, if you do not come from an oil-producing State, an energy-producing State? That means, at minimum, that is 2 million barrels a day less we have to import from OPEC—the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries—in the Middle East. That is 2 million barrels less a day that we are held hostage to that volatile region of the world.

In Karnes County, TX, alone, which is part of the Eagle Ford Shale region, total monthly oil production was nearly 4.9 million barrels. How did this happen? Well, it happened because of the innovation of this sector of our economy—the energy sector—and it has made it cleaner, safer, much more productive than it has been at any other time in the past.

In Midland, TX, which I mentioned a moment ago—part of the incredibly productive Permian Basin, which has been producing oil and gas for many decades now—monthly oil production grew from about 842,000 barrels in February 2008 to 1.9 million barrels in February 2014, for a total increase from 2008 to 2014 of 128 percent—128 percent. Incredible.

As I said, it is not surprising that this area of our State and our country has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the entire Nation. There is a relationship between affordable energy and a strong economy and strong job growth. It is a place, for example, where a person with a high school diploma or a general equivalency degree, a GED, can make $75,000 a year driving trucks. So if you can get a commercial driver's license in Midland, TX, and you have a GED or a high school degree, you could make $75,000 a year. I was told yesterday that at the McDonald's restaurants in the area, people are being paid $15 an hour. That is not because the Federal Government has raised the minimum wage to $15 an hour; that is because the market demands it because the economy is booming.

As I said, people in my State have long understood—because we have been an energy-producing State—that U.S. energy policy is a critical part of U.S. economic policy. Thanks to this innovation I alluded to a moment ago, you are seeing other parts of the country experience this, some for the first time.

But we are all learning that maximizing domestic energy production will create American jobs, and it will make America safer. They are also beginning to understand better that misguided government policies can destroy those same jobs and perpetuate our dependence on foreign energy sources. For example, many people in my State are very concerned about the regulatory process at the Federal level and particularly a proposal that will, in essence, enact a backdoor energy tax in the form of new greenhouse gas rules. The proposed rule would have a major economic cost in return for meager or nonexistent benefits. The Obama Environmental Protection Agency itself admitted that its greenhouse gas rule would not have a notable impact on U.S. carbon dioxide emissions by 2022.

Speaking of which, I hope my friends across the aisle—who frequently argue that we must have government-imposed CO_2 reductions, even if it kills jobs and raises the price of energy for consumers—appreciate that this same natural gas and energy revolution that we have talked about has itself—all by itself—resulted in a significant decline in CO_2 emissions. That is by virtue of this same innovation that has created all this natural gas—cheaper, more affordable energy—to help drive our economy and help create more jobs. At the same time it has reduced CO_2 emissions. Between 2005 and 2012, U.S. emissions dropped by more than 10 percent. Indeed, emissions dropped more in the United States than in Europe, which already has in place some draconian measures, such as a cap-and-trade rule, a carbon tax, and those sorts of policies. It has dropped more in America without those because of this innovation and this natural gas renaissance.

I admit this natural gas boom was not the only reason our emissions went down, but many experts believe it was the most important.

Despite this progress, the majority leader insists that we are still not doing enough to curb CO_2 emissions. But do you know what. He refuses to bring a bill to the floor that would actually, according to his scenario, do something about it—the so-called cap-and-trade bill. I do not support that because I think it would raise energy costs, it would have negligible benefits, and it is really just throwing a bone to some of the most radical people in America when it comes to our environment and exploring and producing American energy. But cap and trade failed to command sufficient Senate approval even when our Democratic friends controlled 60 votes, which in the Senate is unassailable in the sense that you can do that purely on a party-line vote. But the reason it did not pass was pretty simple, and our Democratic friends understand this as well. The costs of cap and trade vastly outweigh the benefits of cap and trade. It does not pass the cost-benefit test.

The same is true of President Obama's backdoor energy tax. Over the coming decades, America's contribution to worldwide carbon dioxide emissions growth will be minuscule. Moreover, as I mentioned, the EPA itself—the Obama administration Environmental Protection Agency—does not believe the greenhouse gas rule would have a significant impact on U.S. emissions by 2022—8 years from now. So the benefits of this backdoor energy tax would be virtually nonexistent, while the costs would be all too real, including higher energy prices and lost jobs.

The shale gas revolution, as it is called—shale because that is the rock it is produced from through this phenomenon known as fracking. And for those who are scared about the concept of fracking, who do not really understand it, this is a process that has been used for about 70 years around the country. It is very safely regulated at the State and local level, and, if proper drilling practices are observed, casing is submitted in a hole in a way that protects drinking water and other possible contamination. So it can and has been done on a daily basis for lo these seven decades.

But the shale gas revolution has been critical to America's economic growth during a time the rest of the economy has struggled, and it is going to be even more vital in the decades ahead.

According to one study, by 2035 unconventional oil and gas resources alone—that is what comes from shale; shale oil, shale gas—will support close to 3.5 million jobs in America and make $475 billion in value-added contributions to America's economy.

Where would we be this last quarter, when the gross domestic product of our economy grew at 0.1 percent, if it were not for what I am talking about here, this energy renaissance in America? We would be in a recession, in my judgment, because it has contributed so much that it has essentially negated a lot of the other bad policies that have kept American job growth nearly flatlined otherwise.

Given all of that, it would be my hope based on this evidence—not based on my comments or my arguments but based on the evidence—we should be doing everything in Washington to support this revolution, or some have called it a renaissance. Call it what you will, but it has supported American job creation and lowered energy costs and helped our economy.

So why not embrace an energy policy that is progrowth, projobs, and proconsumer, an energy policy that is consistent with our environmental interests but serves our economic interests as well and our strategic interests. That means, in part, doing what I said earlier; that is, blocking regulations that do not pass a simple cost-benefit analysis. It means streamlining the regulatory process here in Washington so these projects can go forward on a

timely basis. It means approving job-creating proposals such as the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Many of us have seen, in horror, some of the accidents that have occurred on the railways, where tanker cars have derailed, catching fire, only to learn that in the absence of adequate pipeline capacity, that is the way the oil moves. It moves along the railroad lines in tankers, and sometimes accidents happen, unfortunately.

But we need the Keystone XL Pipeline, which will create tens of thousands of new jobs. It will mean we have a safe source for additional oil, in addition to what we produce here in America, from our friends in Canada. For the opponents of the Keystone XL Pipeline who think that somehow by denying approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline this oil will not be produced and sold, well, it is going to be sold somewhere. Canada is going to sell that oil abroad if it cannot sell it to the United States. That oil, when it comes down the pipeline, will end up in southeast Texas, in a lot of the large refineries there, and be turned into affordable gasoline, fuel oil, and jet fuel, among other things. We have offered amendments that will do that and more.

We will accelerate natural gas exports to our allies and trading partners. Think what Vladimir Putin might do if he knew he did not have a stranglehold on Ukraine and Europe when it came to energy. Think what would happen if they had an alternative—from American exports or pipelines from other places—that could circumvent Russia and could heat homes, keep the lights on, and avoid this stranglehold Vladimir Putin and Russia have on so much of Europe. I think it would make him think twice about his invasion of the Crimea and the threatening actions and the disruption which are taking place in Ukraine today and which could extend even further.

My point is that we have amendments to this underlying Shaheen-Portman energy conservation bill which are relevant to the topic of energy production, albeit broader, which would do all these things. We are trying to offer some of these ideas, which I hope any fairminded observer would say are constructive ideas. You may not agree with all of it—we may not even win a majority of the vote in the Senate today on these amendments—but why in the world would the majority leader insist on denying us an opportunity to have a fulsome debate on American energy policy, not just conservation but on producing more energy as well?

Unfortunately, though, he has given every indication that he will allow no votes on bipartisan amendments—and each of these amendments that I have mentioned has bipartisan support. As a matter of fact, he has indicated he won't allow votes on any amendments on this bill.

The distinguished Republican leader from Kentucky has pointed out that since July this side of the aisle has only been allowed eight—and I think now we have gone back and looked at it—maybe nine votes on amendments that came from the Republican side of the aisle.

Forget me, forget the prerogatives of an individual Senator, but think about the fact that I represent 26 million people. What a tremendous honor and privilege it is but how unfair it is to my constituents; how unfair it is to constituents—American citizens all—that everyone on this side of the aisle represents to shut them out of the process.

Someone called this the HARRY REID gag rule. That pretty well describes it when the minority is deprived of any right to offer constructive proposals and to have votes and debate on these policies in the Senate. We used to call—well, I see the pages here, and I know they go to school while they are pages. I bet if they go back and look in some of their history or civics books, it will tell them that the Senate is called the world's greatest deliberative body. No more. That is history.

If the minority can't offer constructive proposals that would actually improve the availability of American-produced energy, would help grow the economy, and would create jobs, no more is the Senate the world's greatest deliberative body. Unfortunately, it is the result of the decisions made by the majority leader.

When it comes to energy policy, I hope my friends across the aisle will remember what I said about these back-door energy taxes hurting lower-income Americans, as well as our seniors who are on fixed income, because they are the people who can least afford paying higher energy bills or they are the ones who are least able to afford losing their jobs.

We want to adopt on a bipartisan basis energy policies that are progrowth, projobs, pro-environment, and proconsumer, but we will never get there as long as Majority Leader REID decides to deny us an opportunity for a vote on relevant legislation.

This isn't just about inside Senate baseball, this is about one of the Nation's most important governing institutions being able to function. This is about consent of the governed. That is the very premise upon which the legitimacy of the Federal Government exists; that is, that the people—''We the People''—all 300 and some-odd million of us, have an opportunity to participate in the governing process by voting, by petitioning our elected representatives, and by advocating that certain policies be embraced in Washington. You are not promised you will win every time, but you are guaranteed a right as an American citizen to participate in the process. Yet that is being denied at its most fundamental level when the majority leader decides to run this as an autocracy or a dictatorship or decides to impose his own gag rule on the proper functioning of what used to be called the world's greatest deliberative body but is no more.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MANCHIN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONDEMNING ABDUCTION OF FEMALE STUDENTS IN NIGERIA

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 433 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 433) condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the Government Girls Secondary School in the northeastern province of Borno in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a voice vote on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 433) was agreed to.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I further ask the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 1, 2014, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, am I correct in assuming that we have now agreed to this resolution?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I want to thank my friends. It looks as though the Chamber is empty here, but everyone had to sign off on this measure, and I want to explain what we just did. We passed a very important resolution expressing our support for the young girls who were kidnapped in Nigeria.

As I think the world is learning, this is a horrific situation. Kidnapping certainly has no place in any village, in any region, or in any country—not in our country. We know how we feel. We have seen kidnappings recently of

women held in captivity. There should be no room anywhere for kidnapping. Today we heard new reports that the suspected Boko Haram gunmen kidnapped eight more girls from the Nigerian village overnight. So clearly the voices of the civilized world must rise and be louder than the terrorists who are taking away basic human rights.

Senator LANDRIEU's resolution we just passed has many supporters on it, including myself. I am also pleased to hear today the administration has committed to acting with the Nigerian Government.

As a mother and grandmother, my heart is with all those mothers and grandmothers and dads and grandfathers who want their daughters and granddaughters to come home safely. We cannot stay silent in the face of these unspeakable crimes. We are not silent today as a U.S. Senate.

I am so proud we have agreed to this resolution. I want to commend my friend Senator MIKULSKI. She and Senator COLLINS have worked on a letter we are sending to the administration. I am about to go outside to be part of a vigil, an event that has been organized by the Congressional African Staff Association as well as the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association and the Congressional Black Associates, and I am so proud of the Senate for standing for these girls. We will do everything we possibly can to get them home to their families.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Boxer resolution calling for international action and aggressive action from our own government in terms of the rescue of 276 Nigerian girls who were kidnapped from a boarding school their parents paid for them to be able to go to so they could learn.

It is an outrage that these 276 girls have been captured by the terrorist group Boko Haram. It is an outrage against these girls and an outrage in the international community, and we need to speak as a nation—women and men together—saying, what is this where a girl can't go to school simply because she is a girl?

There is strong evidence that, as we speak, these girls are being sold into forced marriages and sexual slavery.

We, the women of the Senate, have written a letter on a bipartisan basis calling for the President to have the Boko Haram group placed on the international Al-Qaeda terrorist list and calling for sanctions to be imposed against them. We are heartened by the fact that the President is sending a team to help the Government of Nigeria find these girls, bring them home safely to their mothers and fathers, get the bad guys, and send an international message: Leave girls and boys alone.

There are additional rumors coming out that schools where boys had been attending, simply because they are in Western-based education, are being burned down and that the boys' lives are in danger. What kind of world is it where a parent, based on parental choice, can't send a child to school without thinking they could be kidnapped, abused, sold into sexual slavery, and so on?

We encourage the efforts by the U.S. Government to support the capacity of the Government of Nigeria to provide security for these schools and to hold these organizations accountable. We urge timely civilian assistance from the United States and allied nations in rescuing these girls.

Many of us believe there should be a regional African coalition to go in which knows the terrain to find these girls. But our President is sending military and law enforcement people to advise the Government of Nigeria, which has been slow to respond. It is not my place to criticize another President, but I wish they would have been more aggressive in a more timely way. Now we are where we are, so I hope we pass the Boxer resolution calling for international help.

I believe we in the Senate, on a bipartisan basis, should join the international voice calling for the rescue of these girls, the return of them home safely to their mothers and fathers, to capture and punish the bad guys, and that there be an international effort to let children of the world be able to go to the school their parents choose for them to go.

I thank Senator BOXER. We are going to be working together. The women of the Senate are going to be meeting with Secretary Kerry, and I believe this is an issue worthy of our attention, worthy of our time, and worthy of our vote.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letter of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, May 6, 2014.

President BARACK OBAMA,
The White House, Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: As the women of the United States Senate, we are writing to you today deeply disturbed by the abduction and mistreatment of more than 200 girls by the terrorist group Boko Haram from the Government Secondary School in Chibok, Nigeria. Boko Haram has threatened to sell the girls as slaves, and some may have already been sold into child marriages. We condemn these appalling actions in the strongest possible terms, and we agree with you that the abduction of these girls is an outrage. The girls were targeted by Boko Haram simply because they wanted to go to school and pursue knowledge, and we believe the U.S. must respond quickly and definitively.

In the face of the brazen nature of this horrific attack, the international community must impose further sanctions on this terrorist organization. Boko Haram is a threat to innocent civilians in Nigeria, to regional security, and to U.S. national interests. The National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) has found that Boko Haram has engaged in multiple attacks on Westerners and repeatedly targeted students at schools and universities, threatening the ability of young Nigerians, particularly women, to attend school.

While we applaud the initial U.S. condemnation of the kidnapping, we believe there is much more that the U.S. government should do to make clear that such an attack will not be tolerated. We urge you to press for the addition of Boko Haram and Ansaru to the United Nations Security Council's al-Qa'ida Sanctions List, the mechanism by which international sanctions are imposed on al-Qa'ida and al-Qa'ida-linked organizations. Their addition to the List would compel a greater number of countries to sanction Boko Haram, joining several countries, such as the United States, which have already done so. General David Rodriguez, Commander of U.S. Africa Command, identified Boko Haram as an al-Qa'ida affiliate, and the Department of State reported that the group has links to al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb when it designated Boko Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working together until girls and women worldwide can pursue an education without fear of violence or intimidation.

Sincerely,

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI,
U.S. Senator.
SUSAN M. COLLINS,
U.S. Senator.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about one of the great crises facing our country; that is, the high cost of college, and the fact that hundreds and thousands of young people who are bright and wish to get a higher education have now decided that, because they do not want to leave school deeply in debt, they are not going to go to college. What a loss that is, not only to the individuals and the enhancement of their own lives, but it is a loss to our Nation because in a highly competitive global economy we need the best educated workforce possible. The fact that college is becoming a distant dream—an unreachable dream—for millions of families is a horrendous situation which this Congress must address.

Over the last 10 years, the cost of attending a public 4-year college has increased by nearly 35 percent at a time when middle-class incomes have remained flat and, in fact, many families have seen a decline in their incomes. Of the students who do go to college, hundreds of thousands graduate with significant debt—on average, over $27,000.

This morning I was talking to a staffer of mine who is $119,000 in debt. And what was her crime? How did she accrue that debt? Did she go on a spending spree? Did she lose her money in a gambling casino? Her crime was that she wanted to go to law school, and she

came out of law school $150,000 in debt. Today that is down to $119,000. I have talked to doctors and dentists who are now several hundred thousand dollars in debt.

The important point to make is there was once a time in the United States when that kind of college and graduate school indebtedness did not exist. Only a few decades ago this country made a commitment to our students that if you worked hard, if you studied hard, and if you wanted to pursue a higher education, you could do so at little or no cost. That was what we used to do. Unfortunately, in that very important area we have regressed, and regressed significantly.

Until the 1970s, at the City University of New York, one of the important and best educational systems in the country, the cost was completely free. The University of California system, one of the largest and best university systems in the world, did not begin charging tuition until the 1980s. In fact, in 1965, average tuition at a 4-year public university was $243.

We know we are living in a highly competitive global economy, and if our Nation is to succeed, we need to have the best educated workforce in the entire world. But the sad truth is we are now competing against other nations around the world that make it much easier for their young people to go to college and graduate school than is the case in the United States of America.

According to a report released last year by the OECD—the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development—the United States was one of the few advanced countries in the world that did not increase its public investment in education over the last decade.

From 2008 to 2010, most advanced countries experienced significant economic decline as a result of the Wall Street collapse. Despite that, the vast majority of countries increased educational spending by 5 percent or more. The United States was one of the few nations to decrease overall educational spending.

I live about 1 hour away from Canada in northern Vermont. In Canada, average annual tuition fees were $4,200 in 2010—roughly half of what they were in the United States—and yet the OECD says Canada is one of the most expensive countries for a student to go to school.

Germany, an international competitor of ours, is in the process of phasing out all tuition fees. Even when German universities did charge tuition, it was roughly $1,300 per student.

According to the European Commission in 2012, the following countries do not charge their students any tuition—and these are countries we are competing against. These are countries where young people go to college without any out-of-pocket expenses. Those countries are Austria, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Scotland, and Sweden.

In Europe, university systems enjoy a very high level of public funding. The EU average is 77 percent. In other words, in countries throughout Europe—Austria, Belgium, Denmark, and all of the rest—what governments understand is that investing in higher education is terribly important for the individual students and their families. But, in addition, it is enormously important for the competitive capabilities of those countries.

So countries such as Austria, Belgium, Denmark, each put in more than 88 percent of public funding into their universities. In the United States, the number is 36 percent. Countries all over the world that don't provide free higher education pump significantly more into their university systems than we do.

The result is several very significant points. First, we have many working-class and middle-class young people who are looking at the economic picture we face as a nation and looking at their own lives, and they are saying: Do I want to go to college and leave school $50,000 or $60,000 in debt? How am I going to pay off that debt once I leave school?

Many of these young people, tragically, are saying: I don't want to take that risk. I don't want to leave school deeply in debt. I will not go to college.

What a tragic situation that is for our entire country, because we are losing the intellectual potential of all of those young men and women.

Second, those who do go to college are coming out of school with an incredible chain of indebtedness around their neck, which impacts every aspect of their lives. It determines what kind of jobs they will get. Will they do the job they had hoped to do their whole lives—their life's dream, the work they were looking forward to doing or are they going to gravitate to those jobs which simply pay them a lot of money and enable them to pay off their debt?

For the first time in our country's history, American families have more student debt than credit card debt, and that is an extraordinary reality. All over this country families are struggling with debt in a way they never have before. The average loan balance for American graduates has increased by 70 percent since 2004. Average student debt is now near $27,000. In Vermont, it is even higher at $28,000. One in eight borrowers is carrying more than $50,000 in student debt. The percentage of families in the United States with outstanding student debt increased from 33 percent in 2005 to 45 percent in 2010.

The bottom line here is we have a huge crisis which is impacting millions of individual families and individual young people. But from a national perspective, it is a crisis which is impacting our competitiveness in the global economy.

There was once a time, not so many years ago, when we had the best educated workforce in the world and we had a higher percentage of college graduates than any other country on Earth.

That is not the case today. I think we have got to do some very hard thinking about the crisis regarding college affordability and the crisis regarding student debt. If this country is to remain internationally competitive in the global economy, we need some bold ideas in terms of how we address these crises.

I can tell you that in Vermont, as I speak to young people around my State, this is the issue foremost on their minds. The young people in high school are wondering about how they can afford to go to college. The students in college are worried about how they are going to pay off their college debt. Our job must be to say to every young person in this country that if you are a serious student, if you study hard, you are going to be able to get a higher education regardless of the income of your family, and you are going to be able to get the best education our Nation can provide you based on your ability and not on the income of your family.

This is an issue of enormous importance to individuals around the country, but it is an issue of huge consequence for the economic future of this country. So in the coming weeks I will be introducing legislation—I know there is a lot of other good legislation that is going to be coming to the floor—because this is an issue of huge consequence, and it is an issue that must be addressed.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Thank you, Mr. President.

We are on the measure again, the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill, also known as the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act—an efficiency bill. This should not be this difficult for us. When we talk about the benefits of an all-of-the-above energy policy—the benefits that can come to us as a nation when we are more resilient with our energy sources, when we are able to access our domestic energy sources, whether they be our fossil fuels, our renewables, or nuclear—we all talk about it in good, strong terms because, quite honestly, energy makes us a stronger nation, having access to our energy resources.

I have defined a good, strong energy policy as one that allows energy to be more abundant, affordable, clean, diverse, and secure. An energy policy is also about the energy we do not consume. It is about the energy we save because we are more efficient.

It seems we have gotten to a point, at least with some aspects of this discussion, where somehow or other the

efficiency side of the energy discussion is a partisan debate; that Republicans do not support energy efficiency. I cannot think of a more conservative principle than conserving energy. This is something we should be embracing, and it is something, in terms of legislation that is sound, that is good to move forward, something that I support.

This bipartisan efficiency bill has been refined. It has been strengthened. It has been improved over the past 3 years. There have been plenty of eyes upon this legislation. There has been plenty of debate about it. We have a total of 13 Senators who are now on board with it, an equal number of Republicans and Democrats. So I am pleased we have this legislation back on the floor again.

The last time this legislation came before us was in September. I spoke then about the importance, the relevance to today, the many good reasons the Senate should support it. I am not going to necessarily repeat all of those points this afternoon, but I do want to highlight quickly a couple of the main points.

The first is going directly to the policy side of it. Energy efficiency should be a broader part of our Nation's energy policy. It is good for our economy. It is good for the environment. It enables us to waste less, to use our resources more wisely. Who can object to this? Who could possibly say this is not a good thing we should encourage?

And there is more. Think about what it does to help create jobs and deliver financial benefits. Study after study shows we can save billions of dollars every year through reasonable efficiency improvements. Whether we are talking about small appliances or large buildings, there are opportunities for gains in efficiencies throughout the system.

The second reason for support of the bill is it envisions a more limited role for the Federal Government. When I think about efficiency, I think the Federal Government should seek to fulfill three key roles. It can act as a facilitator of information that consumers and businesses need. It can serve as a breaker of barriers that discourage or prevent rational efficiency improvements. As the largest consumer of energy in our country, it can lead by example by taking steps to reduce its own energy usage.

This legislation helps us make progress in all of these areas, but it is appropriately tailored as well. It has a number of voluntary provisions. It does not contain any new mandates for the private sector. I think that is worthy of repeating. There are no new mandates in this bill.

When the legislation was first introduced some time ago, there was some concern about impact on building codes. But the provision related to model building codes is voluntary. It is not mandatory. No one has to benefit from it if they do not want to.

The third reason to support the bill is the cost—or, really, the lack of cost. We all know we are operating in a time of high deficits and record debt. The good news is this efficiency bill actually subtracts from our spending rather than adding to it. The CBO has indicated it will yield a modest savings of about $12 million over the 10-year window. Again, this is good from a policy perspective. It is good from a fiscal perspective.

Then the last point is one I want to make in support of process. We have followed regular order, as well as ''regular order'' can be defined around here, but we have done that from the beginning with this legislation. Those of us who serve on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee reported it on an overwhelming bipartisan basis back in 2011, and then again in 2013. So it has gone through a fulsome committee process. Improvements were suggested and have been thoughtfully considered and incorporated. Many, many of the ideas are now incorporated in the text we have in front of us.

Then, finally, a few words about the amendments that are being filed to this bill.

When we last had this bill before the Senate, we were unable to reach agreement on amendments. We got bogged down and the bill was pulled from the floor. The Senate moved on to other matters. We are back again now, and I really do not want to see a repeat of that experience. Quite honestly, we do not need to.

It is certainly true a lot of amendments have been filed to the bill. We had more than 100 last September. That should not be evidence that somehow this bill is flawed. But what it recognizes is there is this pent-up demand for a discussion on the issue of energy. There is a pent-up demand to bring forward ideas and concepts and innovation and policy when it comes to energy debate.

It has been more than 6 years since we have had anything more than a brief debate. When you think about what has happened in the energy sector in the past 6 years, I say to the Presiding Officer, you are sitting in the chair coming from a State that has seen an amazing—an amazing—boom when it comes to natural gas production in your State. You have seen technologies come in that are able to access areas where you did not even know you had the resource.

Think about the changes we have seen in the energy sector in 6 years. Six years ago we were talking about building LNG import terminals—terminals so we could bring LNG in from other countries. Now we are pressing the case for greater LNG exports. We are trying to build out more facilities so we can move this abundant resource from our shores to help our friends and allies around the world.

Six years ago, if I had stood on this floor and suggested to you we were going to have a debate about the export of our crude oil from this country, you would have laughed me off the floor. Nobody was talking about it. But look at what is happening, coming out of the Bakken up in North Dakota, what is coming out of Texas and New Mexico and out of California, Colorado, out of States in the Midwest. We are producing like we have not produced in ages. We are doing so because we have the benefit of good, strong technologies that are allowing us to access a resource safely and making sure we are being good stewards of the land while we are doing it, and creating jobs and opportunities.

So when you think about what has happened in 6 years, and the fact that we have not had a real debate and conversation about energy, it is no wonder people want to present amendments. But we are in a situation now where there is real debate about whether we are going to have any amendments at all.

We have been sitting here in the Senate since last July—almost a year—and there have been nine amendments allowed of the Republicans' choosing to be heard, to be entertained, to be taken up on the floor of the Senate.

We are not asking for an unreasonable number. Given everything that is going on in the world, everything that is happening in the energy sector, it is understood why we would want an opportunity to present amendments. But we are not asking for the Moon here. Out of all the amendments filed to the bill, we are seeking votes on four of them. If we were to take just 15 minutes per vote, with a little extra time for statements in support or opposition, we could work those out in an afternoon.

There is no reason we need to stretch this out. Our other option is to spend the next several days arguing about whether we are going to vote at all. We are sent to the Senate to do good work, and this is a venue where the work is demanding attention, so let's get to it.

Let's advance these measures. Let's get to the debate about whether it is LNG export opportunities, whether it is the advantage from many different perspectives about the Keystone XL Pipeline, and about what more we can be doing as a nation to be a world leader with our energy resources, accessing our resources for the good of Americans, the creation of jobs to strengthen our economy, to help our trade deficit, to help our friends, and to help our allies. We can be in a position to do so much more, but we have to be able to get beyond the discussion, the debate about whether we are just going to talk about whether we are going to talk about it or whether we are going to get to it.

I am hopeful that throughout the afternoon, throughout tomorrow, and throughout the balance of the week we will have an opportunity to discuss and to vote on amendments that are energy-related amendments that will help move this country in a more positive direction when it comes to our energy policy and attach that to a fundamental anchor of a good, strong energy

policy, which is energy efficiency, and that is what the Shaheen-Portman bill allows us to do.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

I want to pivot for a moment and move off the issue of energy efficiency. I wish to speak for a few more minutes this afternoon about National Police Week.

National Police Week is a week to honor our fallen law enforcement officers. It occurs next week. Next week in Washington, DC, we will see police vehicles from all over the Nation. We will see officers in uniform, perhaps some with young kids in tow, flooding the Metro system. The survivors of law enforcement tragedies will gather in Alexandria, VA, for the annual meeting of Concerns of Police Survivors.

On Tuesday night, tens of thousands will gather at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, and they will read by candlelight the names inscribed on the memorial walls this year. On Thursday, the National Peace Officers Memorial Day Service will convene on the west front of the Capitol. These are all very moving tributes to our fallen, those who have served in the line of duty and who honor us all.

For the past 11 years, I have made it a habit of honoring the fallen during National Police Week, regardless of whether any Alaska law enforcement agency suffered a line-of-duty death during that preceding year.

At times I have made note of a sad coincidence, a sad coincidence that law enforcement tragedies in the twos and threes often seem to occur in close proximity to the annual National Police Week observance.

About this time 8 years ago, the National Capital Region was grieving the loss of Michael Garbarino and Vicky Armel, the first Fairfax County police officers to die from gunfire in the line of duty. In April 2009, Pittsburgh lost three of its finest.

This year, as we anticipate the arrival of National Police Week, Alaska carries that tragic burden. Last week my home State lost two members of the Alaska State Troopers in a single incident.

On May 1, Alaska State troopers Sergeant Scott Johnson and Trooper Gabe Rich flew from Fairbanks to the village of Tanana. Tanana is an Athabascan Indian community and there are about 238 people. Tanana sits at the confluence of the Yukon and Tanana Rivers. It is a strong community, it is a resilient community, but it is a community that is truly suffering right now.

Similar to most of the Alaska Native villages, the only full-time law enforcement presence in Tanana is a single, unarmed village public safety officer. Law enforcement backup, when they are needed and called in, will fly to Tanana. Tanana is not accessible by roads, so basically the only way in and out is to fly in and out, coming in from Fairbanks, so it is about a 1-hour flight away.

The village public safety officer asked for trooper assistance to respond to an individual who had been waving a gun in the village. With no backup, other than the unarmed village public safety officer, Sergeant Johnson and Trooper Rich attempted to serve a warrant on the offender. Both officers were shot and killed. The 19-year-old son of the individual who was the subject of the warrant is now charged with the shooting.

This is a horrible tragedy for Tanana, a tragedy for Alaska, and a tragedy for the entire law enforcement community.

Tanana is, as I mentioned, a small village. It is an isolated village. It has been a very resilient village. It is a very proud and a very kind-hearted community. The Athabascan word for Tanana, known as ''Nuchalawoya,'' means ''wedding of the rivers,'' and the village has played a very central role in Athabascan culture for thousands of years.

But like many Alaska Native villages, it suffers from drug and alcohol problems. Last October there was a group of young people from the village of Tanana, and they traveled to the Alaska Federation of Natives convention.

It is the largest gathering of Alaska Natives in the State, and they did a very brave and heroic thing. They assembled on stage in front of 4,000 to 5,000 people to tell Alaskans that they had had enough of the pain and the violence, and they were determined to make their community a healthier place. It was an amazing moment. It was inspiring. There was not a sound to be heard in the huge Carlson Center in Fairbanks as these young people spoke.

So inspiring were the words of these young kids that I wrote Attorney General Holder and I asked that his department invest prevention resources in the village and others like it that were trying to turn things around, trying to face the ugly side of what happens in a small community when we have domestic violence and child sexual assault brought on by drugs and alcohol.

Tanana is absolutely devastated by what happened last week. In the words of Cynthia Erickson, who is the youth leader of the young people I mentioned, last week's incident amounts to two steps back in Tanana's effort to heal itself, but the healing process must begin and now is the time for it to begin.

We remember fallen law enforcement officers for the way they lived their lives. Vivian Eney Cross, who is the widow of a fallen U.S. Capitol police officer, said:

> It is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is how they lived.

In that spirit I wish to share with the Senate a little about the lives of our two fallen Alaskan heroes.

Sergeant Johnson was born in Fairbanks, and he grew up in the small community of Tok, which is 150-plus miles out of Fairbanks on the road system. He went to school in the Tok community, and he was a wrestler. He joined the Alaska State Troopers in 1993 after serving as a North Slope Borough police officer.

Sergeant Johnson spent his entire 20-year trooper career in Fairbanks, where he rose through the ranks to supervise the Areawide Narcotics Team and ultimately the Interior Rural Unit. Sergeant Johnson also was an accomplished canine handler and a leader of the regional SWAT team. We call it SERT in Alaska, the Special Emergency Reaction Team.

His final assignment was leader of the Interior Rural Unit, a team of four who respond to incidents in 23 Native villages. Sergeant Johnson assumed that role this year. His territory covered hundreds of miles end-to-end. Again, these are hundreds of miles without road access.

Sergeant Johnson was 45 years old. He is survived by his wife, daughters aged 16, 14, and 12, and also survived by his parents and siblings.

Trooper Gabe Rich was born in Pennsylvania. He moved to Fairbanks shortly after he was born. He graduated from Lathrop High School in 2006. He was 26 years old at the time of his death.

Trooper Rich spent 4 years working as a patrolman with the North Pole Police Department before deciding to become an Alaska State Trooper in 2011. He is survived by his fiancé, their 1-year-old son, and his parents. He was in the process of adopting his fiancé's 8-year-old boy.

Sergeant Johnson and Trooper Rich were known to those who watched the popular National Geographic series ''Alaska State Troopers.'' Undoubtedly, those who have watched the two in action are also grieving the loss, along with the people of Tanana and all of Alaska.

I think I speak for all in this body when I say we are shocked and we are saddened by the events in Tanana last week. On behalf of a grateful Senate and a grateful nation, I take this opportunity to extend my condolences to all who held Sergeant Johnson and Trooper Rich deep in their hearts.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. We are going to have, as indicated, a briefing on Ukraine at 5:30 this evening. I alert all Senators we will do our utmost to start at 5:30, and we must end at 6:30. We need everybody on time. If I am there on time, I am going to start it on time, and I will do my utmost to be there on time. People can be called upon for questions in the order they show up at the meeting.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that at 5:30 p.m., the Senate recess until 6:30 p.m. tonight for the purpose of an all-Senators briefing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection.

KIDNAPPING OF SCHOOLGIRLS IN NIGERIA

Mr. REID. I have had a number of titles, as all we Senators have over the years, but the title that means the most to me has always been ''Dad,'' ''Father.'' It is so important that my five children recognize me as their dad.

My oldest child is a daughter, Lana, but I also have 12 granddaughters. As a father and grandfather, I can't imagine the horror of having one of these girls abducted, kidnapped, and stolen—even though Nigeria is thousands of miles away from where we sit today.

My nightmare, our nightmare—we are always worrying about our girls—is a reality in Nigeria.

On the night of April 14, more than 250 girls—I don't know the exact number—were stolen from a school by a terrorist group called Boko Haram. These kidnappers, a cowardly group of men—thugs and terrorists—have announced their attention to sell the girls in the marketplace.

It was only yesterday the leader of this organization was on television saying we have them and we are going to sell them. How would that make a mother or dad, family member feel? It is sickening to think these girls are at the mercy of these slavers. These are terrible reports. Some say—some of the reports we get—some of the girls have already been sold into Chad and Cameroon. I hope that is wrong.

So I, with my colleagues, join with the rest of the world in renouncing these heinous acts.

We must remember that this crime is only one of the many acts of terrorism of this awful group Boko Haram. They have done it before against children, against civilians.

Today the United States offered its assistance to rescue these girls. Great Britain has done the same, and other countries have as well. Nigeria, in my opinion, has been reticent to receive help. That is not my opinion, but that is what the public reports say. We want to help rescue these girls. We have some assets the Nigerians don't have, as do the Brits and others who want to help.

I am concerned the Nigerian Government's response to this crime and to dealing with Boko Haram is very tepid. Nigeria has missed opportunities to collaborate with international partners to fight terrorism in this instance and other instances. Instead of carrying out its own operation—which has been very clumsy, and there has been a disregard for human rights—they should let us help. Let the world community help.

The Nigerian Government has been disastrously slow in responding to these incidents—not on this one but on others. I urge the Nigerian Government to use all of its resources and accept international assistance to bring the abductors to justice. The world is watching. Return these daughters to their families.

Today we adopted S. Res. 433, which condemned this abduction, to add our voices to those calling for their release. I especially thank Senator MARY LANDRIEU of Louisiana and all other cosponsors for their hard work on this legislation. The Senate, along with the rest of the world, will continue to do all we can to help our Nigerian friends. We continue to hope and pray for the safe return of these girls to their moms and dads.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time in recess count postcloture on the legislation that is now being considered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Mr. President, I very rarely am motivated to come to the floor simultaneously with current events, thinking that it is important to reflect and learn as much as possible about a subject before one begins to orate about it on the Senate floor. I am making an exception, however, because of the extraordinarily heinous acts that have occurred in the country of Nigeria.

I think it takes everyone's breath away in the United States of America that a terrorist organization—Boko Haram—would attack a secondary school in northeastern Nigeria and kidnap 200 girls. Most of these girls are not that much younger than my daughters. These were young women who wanted nothing more than to get an education. We are now told these terrorists have proudly proclaimed they will enslave these young women, they will sell them as slaves. They are proudly taking credit for this despicable and inhumane act.

I thank Senator MIKULSKI and Senator COLLINS for organizing a letter to the President to urge him to include Boko Haram in the United Nations Al Qaeda sanctions list. I thank the other Senators who introduced the resolution we passed this afternoon condemning this attack. But we have to do more.

It concerns me, honestly, that this is occurring in a country where the leader not too long ago signed into law a measure that anyone entering into a homosexual relationship can be imprisoned for up to 14 years. In this same country we have a terrorist organization capturing young women and enslaving them for dollars to be child brides, proudly proclaiming that it is a sin for these young women to want to get an education, that this action was necessary to purge them of their sins and marry them off.

I understand it takes all kinds of people to make up this great world. I understand there are all kinds of beliefs. But it is very hard for me to get my arms around the notion that there could be any faith that would believe kidnapping young women by the hundreds and selling them as indentured slaves to men could ever be part of any kind of faith that we should recognize. These are not people of faith; these are heinous criminals. I believe our country should look at them as archenemies of who we are as a nation and what we stand for as a government.

The name of this organization means ''Western education is a sin.'' Respect for young women is not a sin. Wanting an education is not a sin. The opportunity to better oneself is not a sin.

These incredible crimes that have been committed should not go unanswered, and I think it is incumbent on our Nation, with the great resources we have, to make sure we send the appropriate message to the world that this is Al Qaeda and this is our enemy—not just to our values and our way of life but, importantly, an enemy to innocent young women.

I wanted to come to the floor to make this statement because I cannot imagine how the parents of these young girls must be feeling and how helpless the feeling must be. I can only hope and pray that the Government of Nigeria realizes this is a moment of truth for them. Will they stand up to this kind of extremism that is not faith? They do a disservice to their professed faith by these actions. Can this country stand up to them, can we help them stand up to them and, most importantly, can we do anything to save these young women?

When I go to bed tonight I will, in my faith, thank God for my family and my children, and I will also ask for prayers for these young women in hopes they can be rescued, that they can be reunited with their desire to get educated, and that their families will not have to spend days wondering if they will ever see their children again or if their children will even survive.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support S. 2262, the Shaheen-Portman Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act of 2014. The reason I do so is because I have long felt we can't be for an all-of-the-above energy policy if we aren't promoting state-of-the-art approaches in terms of energy efficiency.

I think the Presiding Officer and I both know it isn't even a speech here in the Senate on energy policy unless the Senator says they are for an all-of-the-above at least three times every 15, 20 minutes. So I think what Senator

SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN are doing is making it clear right at the start that an all-of-the-above energy policy is their approach and their effort to pull as many as possible colleagues into innovative approaches in terms of promoting energy efficiency.

Senators SHAHEEN and PORTMAN have been tirelessly pursuing this legislation for 3 years now. I had a chance as the former Chair of the Energy Committee to watch what they have been doing. I will walk back a bit to make sure colleagues understand how constructive their efforts have been, both substantively and in terms of promoting collaboration here in the Senate, in hopes that these commonsense energy proposals for creating good jobs and a cleaner and healthier environment will prevail on a bipartisan basis here in the Senate.

With our colleague from Alaska, Senator MURKOWSKI, I have had a front-row seat over the last couple years to watch Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN in action and support their efforts. I think we should all be very appreciative of the job our new Chair, Senator LANDRIEU, is doing—again, in concert with Senator MURKOWSKI—because the two of them continue the committee's tradition, No. 1, of working in a bipartisan way but, No. 2, trying again to promote collaboration here within the Senate to promote an energy approach, which I think is not only common sense but it is absolutely essential in order to be able to go on to the other energy policy issues that surely are likely to be more contentious than energy efficiency.

To walk back a bit through what has happened, I think our colleagues know an earlier version of this legislation passed our Energy and Natural Resources Committee last year by an overwhelming bipartisan majority. It was then considered on the floor this past September, but it was blocked by demands for a vote on a health care amendment which had nothing to do with the premise of the underlying bill. I happen to oppose that amendment, but however a Senator feels, it has nothing to do with energy efficiency and productivity.

When the bill stalled on the Senate floor last fall, it looked pretty grim for the cause of energy efficiency, and essentially people were questioning the Senate's ability to consider an act on a range of energy issues which confront our country. I think a lot of people would have thrown in the towel at that point. They would have said: We put in all of this work and effort to win such a strong bipartisan vote in the Senate; then we were ready to go to the floor and faced unrelated issues. And I could see why the sponsors would give up. But Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN are not throw-in-the-towel type of Senators, and in effect they doubled down and went back to work on some of the most challenging issues.

So at that point, after the unfortunate setback of last September, they in effect doubled down and worked to bring an even broader range of Members and stakeholders together here in the Senate to form a consensus and make this bill even better, improve the array of commonsense approaches taken to promote energy efficiency, and increase the chance of the best possible energy efficiency bill becoming law.

I wish to highlight at this point how challenging this work was and how pleased I was the Senate was able to get together.

At that point one of the most challenging issues dealt with the question of the then-existing requirements that new Federal buildings be designed to phase out their use of fossil-fuel-generated energy by 2030. This is important for a variety of reasons. Of course, the Federal Government is a major property owner in our country, No. 1. And No. 2, I think we all look to the Federal Government at a minimum to try to set some examples in terms of trying to deal with these issues.

In other words, it is fine for Washington, DC, to say: Everybody else would do X, Y, and Z. But if they come back and say the Federal Government is not willing to set an example, it is pretty hard to have any credibility in terms of that particular field of public policy. The reality was that while well meaning, the existing requirement that new Federal Government buildings be designed to phase out their use of fossil-fuel-generated energy by 2030 was not working particularly well by anyone's calculus.

We had folks in the natural gas industry raising questions about whether they would be able to participate. They made the point—one that I think certainly has validity—that natural gas is 50 percent cleaner than the other fossil fuels. They were saying: Well, how are we going to be able to play a role with heating in Federal buildings, which, of course, as I indicated, is very significant both because the Federal Government owns so much property and because of the example the Federal Government sets.

So reaching an agreement on how to balance repeal of this provision in existing law—well meaning, but not working very well—with the addition of provisions to enhance efficiency in Federal buildings involved innumerable meetings—meetings that I participated in personally and others were involved in that went on literally for months with all of the stakeholders—the electric and gas utility industries, the environmental advocacy organizations, the energy efficiency groups—all of them in discussions that took place over conference calls and in-person meeting after meeting.

I would submit that had those groups not been able to come together—and I believe they deserve great credit because they did—I think it may have been right at that point very difficult to advance this bill because we would have generated, for the first time, significant opposition around the core issue. Whether it be environmental groups or electric and gas groups, we would have had significant friction over an important public policy issue, which is how to promote renewable energy to the greatest extent possible in new Federal Government buildings.

I will say to colleagues who may be following this, a number of times in these discussions I thought things were going to blow up. I thought one or more of these groups would walk out and say: We will take our chances on the floor; we believe we are going to win, and if it takes this bill down, so be it. But they stayed at the table and they worked out an agreement.

As a result of their agreement—environmental organizations, those in the advocacy of energy efficiency and a variety of industry groups—the effort produced a significantly better bill, and a bill that now includes some very important and powerful additions.

For example, as a result of rewriting the provision that new Federal Government buildings be designed to phase out the use of fossil-fuel-generated energy, very substantial financial savings were generated so as to be able to include some very sensible and potentially far-reaching changes in the energy efficiency field. For example, as a result of that agreement it is possible to take some of the financial savings generated in that redo of the requirements for renewable fuels in Federal energy building and include in the legislation that is now before the Senate, the SAVE Act, a bipartisan proposal championed by our colleagues Senator ISAKSON and Senator BENNET. This provision would for the first time facilitate the accounting of energy efficiency in residential mortgages. A report by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy and the Institute for Market Transformation estimates that this proposal alone would create 83,000 new jobs in home construction, renovation, and manufacturing by 2020. These are jobs for American workers that cannot be outsourced. The agreement on Federal building efficiency would also extend the 3 percent-per-year Federal building efficiency target through 2017 and expand the coverage of this efficiency target from new buildings to include major renovations as well.

So what we have is a good bill that got out of committee. It was a good bill last September that I would have liked to have seen pass this body at that time. After it was not possible to move it forward, we had the chief sponsors, Senator SHAHEEN and Senator PORTMAN, work continually to try to advance this legislation and broaden its appeal. When they bumped up against a really serious problem, which was to fix this policy with respect to the requirements for renewable energy in Federal buildings, they worked with a variety of groups and organizations and were able to make the bill better.

I wish to thank a number of Senators who were behind this effort to redo the

requirements for new Federal buildings—in particular, our colleagues on this side of the aisle, Senator MANCHIN and Senator WHITEHOUSE, and on the other side of the aisle I wish to thank Senator HOEVEN. They were very involved in the nuts and bolts of redoing this legislation. Suffice it to say that the three of them would be the first to say they don't agree on every possible energy policy subject matter. Yet the three of them came together, worked with this coalition of groups I have described, and made significant improvements in the already good bill after September. As a result of their work, we have generated financial savings that made it possible to include the Isakson-Bennet legislation on residential mortgages, which is a very significant and positive development in the energy efficiency field.

This is not a small matter, taking bold steps to improve energy efficiency in residential mortgages the way our colleagues Senator ISAKSON and Senator BENNET have done in a bipartisan fashion. The reason this efficiency legislation is back is because it is sensible and has bipartisan appeal. It is about cutting waste and creating jobs. Passing this legislation would be the biggest step in years toward tapping the enormous potential of energy efficiency, which is the most sensible and cheapest energy source America has.

Here are the most relevant figures with respect to the benefits of this bill. The bill will save about 2.8 billion megawatt hours of electricity by 2030, according to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. To translate this into something people can put their arms around, if we are going to generate 2.8 billion megawatt hours—and that is the projection for this bill—our country would have to build 10 new nuclear powerplants, at a cost of billions of dollars each, and run them for more than 20 years. An additional provision of the bill updates and promotes voluntary model building codes, making residential and commercial buildings more efficient through the installation of new equipment, insulation, and other efficiency technologies. There is money to be saved and there is energy to be saved. That is the kind of work this legislation accomplishes.

What I have described is possibly not the most flashy of stories we might be contemplating here in Washington. It might not be at the top of every single account on the nightly news, but businesses understand how valuable this is. Businesses understand that there is money to be made here. That is why more than 250 companies and associations endorse the bill, including the chamber of commerce, which I think would be the first to state that they don't see themselves as a bleeding heart environmental organization. I was struck by a headline in forbes.com not long ago that read ''The Shaheen-Portman Energy Savings Act: It's the economy, stupid.'' Forbes, a prominent business publication, got it right.

If Congress can pass this bill, it would immediately become one of the largest job-creating efforts the Senate will enact this year, creating an estimated 192,000 new jobs by 2030. It can also make a tremendous difference in our country's economic competitiveness, bringing savings to businesses and families, reducing demands on our electric grid, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Having watched the development of this legislation as the former chair of the Energy Committee and now chair of the Finance Committee, I think every Member of the Senate understands how important it is to secure a cleaner, more efficient, job-creating energy future. This legislation provides that opportunity. It was a good bill when the Senate considered it last September, it is an even better bill tonight, and to a great extent it is made better because colleagues such as Senator JOE MANCHIN and Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE and Senator HOEVEN have worked together on a very contentious matter involving renewable energy in Federal buildings. It is the latest demonstration of good will and comity that has dominated this debate, at least as it relates to the substance of discussing energy efficiency legislation.

I thank our chair Senator LANDRIEU for the first-rate job she has done not only on this but on the matters before the Energy Committee. I also thank my good friend and colleague Senator MURKOWSKI for the same sorts of efforts she made to work with me as the chair and Senator LANDRIEU. I think those efforts are going to pay off. Let's make sure they pay off immediately with the Senate this week moving forward and passing the bipartisan Shaheen-Portman legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BLUMENTHAL). The Senator from Georgia.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY WALKER, JR.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about a dear friend of mine who last Friday, at the joint spring meeting in Las Vegas, received the American Bar Association's Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division's 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Larry Walker is a lawyer in Perry, GA. He is a lifetime resident of Perry and went back to his hometown of Perry to practice in 1965. I am so proud that Larry has been recognized by his peers—of which I am one, as a practicing lawyer in Georgia before I came into government. Larry epitomizes what lawyers look to when you think of someone who is a good lawyer.

The award he received recognizes solo and small firm attorneys who are widely accepted by their peers as having significant lifetime distinction, exceptional achievement, and distinction in an exemplary way. Winners are viewed by other solo and small firm practitioners as epitomizing the ideals of the legal profession of solo and small firm practitioners.

Larry began his law career, as I say, in 1965 when he came back to Perry to practice law. He became a judge of the Perry Municipal Court at the age of 23. In 1972 Larry ran for the General Assembly of Georgia and won the seat that was formerly held by soon-to-be-Senator Sam Nunn. He served in the General Assembly until 2005. In 1986 he was elected majority leader of the Georgia House of Representatives and served in that capacity for 16 years. He was the founding member of Walker, Hulbert, Gray & Moore and served as chair of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation. Larry also represented Georgia's Eighth Congressional District on the Georgia Department of Transportation from 2007 to 2009, and in August of 2009 he was appointed by then-Governor Sonny Perdue to the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, where he continues to serve today.

Larry writes a weekly column for the Houston, GA, Home Journal and is the author of a book entitled ''Life on the Gnat Line,'' a composition of Larry's widely read columns on family, everything southern, reading, politics, and, of course, just folks. Larry is a frequent speaker at various community and State events, including continuing legal education seminars.

Larry has been my dear friend for over 30 years. He is not just a great lawyer, he is a great guy. He and I have had the opportunity to knock down a quail bird or two in the woods of South Georgia. We have had discussions late into the night over politics and life in general. Larry is one of those individuals who make life fun and who are a pleasure to be around, and that is why I am so excited the American Bar Association has seen fit to recognize Larry's talents, his hard work, his dedication, and his integrity to the law profession. He has been successful not because he moved to his hometown where he was well known; he has been successful because he is looked at as someone who possesses all the finest characteristics a lawyer can hope to have.

I am indeed privileged to call him a dear friend. I am indeed privileged to have an opportunity to say to Larry and to his wife Janice, congratulations. This kind of award shows that people all across this great country recognize you, Larry, for the great work you have done in our profession for all of these years since you first hung out your shingle in June of 1965.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess until 6:30 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:30 p.m., recessed until 6:30 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BLUMENTHAL).

ENERGY SAVINGS AND INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, on behalf of the distinguished Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, I ask unanimous consent that he and I and the Senator from Wyoming, Mr. ENZI, and the Senator from North Dakota, Ms. HEITKAMP, be permitted to engage in a colloquy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, this colloquy is for the purpose of marking an important day in the Senate because it was on this day 1 year ago that the Senate overwhelmingly passed the Marketplace Fairness Act. We did this by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote. Sixty-nine Senators, including about half of our Republican caucus, 21 Republicans, supported an 11-page bill—a rarity in this body—that is about just two words, and the words are ''States rights.''

The Marketplace Fairness Act, simply described, gives States the right to decide for themselves whether to collect or not collect State sales taxes that are already owed. This ability to collect taxes that are already owed would give States the option to reduce existing taxes or to avoid a new tax or to pay for services without raising taxes.

The Marketplace Fairness Act closes a tax loophole that prefers some businesses over other businesses and some taxpayers over other taxpayers. Out-of-State businesses are being subsidized because they don't have to collect sales taxes—taxes that are owed—and local businesses do. As a result, some taxpayers are being subsidized because some pay sales taxes and others do not even though they may owe the taxes. That is not right, and it is not fair. This legislation, which passed the Senate 1 year ago, gives States the option to decide whether to change that.

One of the best ways to lower State taxes is for the Federal Government to allow States to collect State sales taxes from everyone who owes the tax and not just from some of the people who owe the tax.

We have an honor roll of conservatives who do not think States ought to have to play ''Mother May I?'' with the Federal Government on this question. For example, Al Cardenas, chairman of the American Conservative Union; Art Laffer, President Reagan's favorite economist; Charles Krauthammer; Representative PAUL RYAN; Governor Mike Pence, a former Member of the House of Representatives; Governor Chris Christie; former Governor Jeb Bush; former Governor Mitch Daniels; and the late William F. Buckley, not to mention Governor Bill Haslam of the State of Tennessee, agree that recognizing the power of State legislators to make these decisions for themselves is consistent with the 10th amendment and our constitutional framework.

In our State of Tennessee, the Marketplace Fairness Act is an insurance policy against a State income tax. We don't have a State income tax and we don't want a State income tax.

The House of Representatives has not yet acted on this bill. The bill that was passed a year ago today by the Senate was an overwhelming bipartisan vote. We are hopeful that the House will soon either enact our bill, which we have sent to them, or send us their version of the bill so we can confer and send a result to the President of the United States.

State and local governments have been waiting on Congress to solve this problem for more than 20 years—since 1992 when the Supreme Court said Congress has the ultimate power to resolve the issue. Now is the time to act on this legislation. We are ready to work with the House to enact that legislation this year.

In conclusion, I will read the comments of Al Cardenas, chairman of the American Conservative Union and former chairman of the Florida Republican Party. When talking about the Marketplace Fairness Act, Mr. Cardenas said,

> When it comes to state sales tax, it is time to address the area where federally mandated prejudice is most egregious—the policy towards Internet sales, the decades-old inequity between online and in-person sales as outdated and unfair.

Again, that was Al Cardenas, chairman of the American Conservative Union, speaking in support of the Marketplace Fairness Act.

I am pleased that of the four Senators who will be on the floor during this colloquy, two are already here. I see the Senator from North Dakota, and I see the Senator from Wyoming. If it is all right with the Senator from Wyoming, I will defer to the Senator from North Dakota. While the Senator may be a little modest about this—I hope she is not—she actually started it all. She has a better view of the Marketplace Fairness Act than just about anyone because of her service in the State government of North Dakota. She has an ability to explain in plain and simple language why the fair and right thing to do is to recognize the rights of States to make these decisions for themselves. Her ability to do that has been a crucial part of our debate and is one of the reasons why we had such overwhelming bipartisan support in the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, first I want to say what an honor it has been for me to participate in any amount of leadership on this issue here on the floor of the Senate with such incredible leaders as Senator ALEXANDER, Senator ENZI, and Senator DURBIN, who have long recognized the injustice that is being done to Main Street businesses and the problems we have in terms of States rights and making sure we maintain a system that recognizes the value of States rights and the value of a State prerogative so they can make their own taxing decisions without interference from the U.S. Senate or anyone in the Federal Government.

As Senator ALEXANDER has explained, when I first came to this body, Senator DURBIN suggested to his staff that they try to find out where I would be on this issue because my predecessor, Senator Dorgan, had been very active with this coalition of leaders on addressing this problem, and his staff suggested that he might want to read the caption on the Quill case since there was the name ''HEIDI HEITKAMP'' in that caption.

The reality is that back in the late 1980s and early 1990s, we saw this phenomenon of increased catalog sales. I am not talking about companies such as Sears that had a physical presence in the community and could thereby collect sales taxes but more and more boutique types of catalogs. There was more and more competition coming from catalogs.

I had more and more Main Street businesses coming to me as the tax commissioner asking: How is this fair? How is it fair that I started my little business—whether it was a wallpaper business or a fabric business, whatever it was—and people come to my store and look at my sample books that I actually have to pay for, test out the quality of the fabric, take a lot number, and leave and order it from the catalog?

That was a pretty horrible thing to happen to Main Street businesses back in the late 1980s.

Can you imagine walking into a Main Street business now and not only getting advice and information on how the product operates and what the warrantees are—not to mention all the training these Main Street businesses have given their employees—but then taking a snapshot of a barcode so you can order it on the Internet right there in the store? I can only imagine how discouraging this is for Main Street businesses. It is unfair to Main Street businesses when they are asked to support their communities, such as putting the ad in the little high school newspaper or contributing to a football billboard or the local fire department so they can serve their communities.

If you think of all the things Main Street businesses do, they are not just involved in retail, they are involved in communities. Yet those Main Street businesses are not asking for an unfair advantage; they are asking for fairness and equity. They are asking that when sales tax rates have gone up from 8 percent to 9 percent because the base dwindles—you have to raise the rate in order to collect the same amount of money—they are being basically taxed out of the marketplace through this

unfair advantage that remote sellers have against them by not having the obligation to collect a tax that is honestly already owed.

I want to reiterate a couple of points Senator ALEXANDER was making because I think it is so important. One of the arguments we hear consistently about marketplace fairness is that it is a Federal imposition of a tax. Nothing could be further from the truth. This is a tax that is already owed. This is a tax that is owed to the States. It is owed by the people who make these purchases—a sales and use tax. We are doing nothing more than telling every State: If you want to pursue Main Street fairness, you have a path forward.

If a State doesn't want to tax or put a collection responsibility on remote sellers, there is nothing in this bill that requires them to do that.

This is a States rights bill, but it is also a fairness to Main Street businesses bill. It is a bill that would make sure that the promise of an equitable tax system in this country is fulfilled. This bill is a promise that if you play by the rules and do everything the way you should as a business, no one is going to get an advantage over you, and we are going to level the playing field. There is no level playing field when somebody has a 10-percent advantage over you simply because you actually invested in a community, put up bricks and mortar, trained a sales force, and yet you are going to be the disadvantaged one.

When we started this a year ago, we were joined by all manner of retailers, but I will never forget the story of a young woman who had a dream. She loves animals and pets. She trained herself in pet nutrition and opened a pet nutrition store in Missouri—it might have been Kansas or Missouri because it was in the Kansas City area. When you combine State and local taxes where her business is located, the tax rate was 9 percent. People would come to her store and explain the ailment or condition of their pets, and her very excellent sales staff would tell them what product was best for their cat or dog. She knew when they walked out, they simply ordered it on the Internet because she could not give them a 10-percent discount. That is what happened in her business.

We told her that if she had a small Internet business with $1 million in sales, she would have to collect taxes too. She said: I would be so happy to collect a sales tax if I had $1 million in Internet sales; that would mean I was winning.

If you think about that and the mom-and-pop businesses—just a couple of kind of myth-breaking things about how this is truly going to affect small business. This is not going to have any effect at all on any business if we pass the bill we passed that has gross sales below $1 million. We have a threshold.

The other myth is that they are going to be subjected to millions of audits and millions of tax rates. The streamlined process has proven over and over that this is not higher math. We can get this done.

I have a story from the time we did the original Quill case. It got a lot of national attention, and there was a lot of discussion about this. I had a reporter from the Omaha World Herald call me. He said he had just called a major retailer to order some new shirts, and the retailer he was talking to had been very active in opposing the Quill case and very active in opposing what we were trying to do. One of their arguments was that they could not possibly know the tax rate on that shirt in his jurisdiction. When he ordered his shirt, he told the person on the other end of the phone his size, and that person said: You know, maybe you want to check because last time you ordered, it was a size 15.

This reporter said to me: If they can know my shirt size, they could probably figure out the tax rate of the jurisdiction I live in.

Think about it. It has only gotten easier.

One of our major retailers, which is adamant about how this would be the most horrible and onerous thing, offers a package for $15 if anyone wants to collect the tax.

The other fallacy here and one of the myths I want to break is that if I went to sell my old used lawnmower on the Internet, I would be subjected to sales tax. I think it is only natural that this body doesn't have a lot of experience in sales taxation. It is not what we do. It is what State and local governments do. It is what people who had my former job do. However, there is such a thing as casual sales. If are you not in the business of being a retailer in every State, you have no collection responsibility. It is only retailers, only people who are in the business of retailing and only people who have retail sales over $1 million who would be affected. And we have streamlined the process. We have made this possible. It is a small thing to ask for us to take an action in this body and in the House of Representatives to tell Main Street businesses that they still matter in the marketplace and that we are going to listen to them and we are going to do everything we can to get them fairness and justice in our tax system.

So, again, I congratulate the excellent leadership that has come before me on this floor on this issue. I pledge once again to do everything we can to get this marketplace fairness done in this Congress so that our Main Street businesses don't have to wait a day longer for tax justice in this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Senator from North Dakota for her eloquent statement and for her leadership. I am delighted that she has gone from being a caption on a lawsuit to a Senator who can help us pass this bill. In just a moment I will yield the leadership of this colloquy to the assistant Democratic leader, but I wish to say a word about the next Senator speaking and about Senator DURBIN as well.

Senator MIKE ENZI is the real pioneer on the Marketplace Fairness Act. He knows what he is talking about. He is a shoestore owner from Wyoming. He knows what it is like for someone to come in and try on a pair of shoes and then go home and order them on the Internet and disadvantage a smalltown owner of a shoestore as compared with an out-of-State business. He has diligently and systematically lead this fight the whole time, and it was due to that diligence that the Senate had this overwhelming bipartisan achievement one year ago today. I thank him for his leadership.

Now I recognize the assistant Democratic leader. The truth of the matter is, the way the Senate works, we would never have been able to pass this in the Senate with such fine fashion if it hadn't been for the leadership of the assistant Democratic leader, Senator DURBIN of Illinois. I thank him very much for his leadership and congratulate him for it, and I am glad to turn the leadership of the colloquy over to him.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I thank Senator ALEXANDER for the leadership he has shown on this bill. We had a much more extensive bill designed, and I worked on it for all of the years he mentioned, which is all the years I have been here, 17 years. We made some progress every single time it came up, but there were misconceptions with it. Senator ALEXANDER suggested the solution that is the true solution for this bill. He changed it to a very brief States rights bill, not a Federal bill. This doesn't have any requirements for any State, but it has an ability for States to make up their own mind.

So I rise today with my colleagues from Illinois, Tennessee, and North Dakota to recognize the anniversary of this significant event. One year ago today, with a show of strong bipartisan support, the Senate took an important step forward to level the playing field for all retailers that collect sales taxes. But it is not really about the retailers; it is about the people who work in those stores. We are talking about middle America. They can't afford to have the employees unless they make the sales, and if they just do the sales pitch and then it is ordered online, there is no revenue the employee brought in, and if there is a prolonged period when there is no revenue, the business doesn't need the employee. This bill is about supporting the jobs we have in our towns. It is about the people who are our neighbors who work in the stores and the people who have the stores that participate in all of the community events.

As the Senator from North Dakota said—and she is probably the only one

who has worked on this bill longer than I have because she was involved in it in State government when she was in North Dakota. I appreciate her expertise on this bill. Without some of the explanations she was able to give on the history of this bill, we wouldn't have been able to get it done.

Of course, Senator DURBIN and I have been speaking for what seems like years now trying to explain how this bill works, taking into consideration any concerns people had and trying to overcome those concerns. I couldn't guess how many hundreds of meetings there have been over trying to get this bill right and to get it fair, all so the States still have the revenue they need to operate without imposing perhaps a personal income tax. In the case of Virginia, I think they are not going to raise the gas tax if this bill passes. So this is a States rights bill. It takes money to the States, and it is money that is really owed right now.

I did a little checking. Wyoming started collecting their sales tax in 1935, and it has been virtually unchanged since that time. There is a provision in the sales tax law that requires a form, so that if someone buys something from out of State and didn't pay sales and use tax on it, they are supposed to fill out this form before the end of the month and send the sales and use tax with the form to the State government to pay it.

One of the surprises I discovered is there is about $1½ million a year collected in Wyoming that way—people obeying the law. But that is pretty tough to keep track of and especially if one doesn't make out-of-State purchases every day. So the State, of course, imposed on local retailers the requirement that they collect sales tax, and then people don't have to fill out that form. They don't have to send it in before the end of the month.

So they made it a lot easier by making the retailers collect the money. Unfortunately, they weren't able to make all of the retailers collect the money. Because of a court case, they aren't able to do it out of State, and that is very important because it is a huge loss of revenue. I think Wyoming actually loses about $23 million a year because of purchases over the Internet where no sales tax is paid.

On May 6, 2013, this Chamber passed the Marketplace Fairness Act, and we passed it with 69 votes. Some of the votes we had were as high as 76 votes. That is very significant around here. Sixty-nine is an incredible number for the Senate to produce on any bill. It came from a majority of both sides of the aisle, which is important. I wish to remind my colleagues that this bill is about fairness. It is about leveling the playing field between brick-and-mortar and online companies, and it is about collecting that tax that is already due. It is not about raising taxes. It isn't about taxing the Internet, and it isn't about taxing Internet access. I think we are all opposed to that. But we are in favor of the States, if they wish, to be able to collect the taxes they have imposed on the people who live in their State. So it is a States rights bill.

In a nutshell, the Marketplace Fairness Act is a straightforward, 11-page bill that brings clarity to a vexing area of sales tax collection inequity. Online sales often go without collection of the sales tax from the point of purchase, while the Main Street stores and the other brick-and-mortar stores in town typically face established collection procedures—no choice, regular reports.

Wyoming shouldn't subsidize online retailers that operate and sell to people in our State. Neither should Illinois or North Dakota or Tennessee or any other State that has sales tax laws. But right now, online retailers can offer lower prices than the local businesses that hire the local people who pay the property taxes and that participate in the community events; the most important thing being those local jobs, simply because they do not have to charge the same sales tax out of State that all our local merchants do.

Sales taxes are important. They pay for the roads we drive on. They pay for the schools our kids go to. In Wyoming, with the particularly small towns, they rely on sales tax for the fire protection and the police protection. When people ask me about the sales tax bill, I ask them what county they are from and, if it is a small town, I say: Check with your fire department and see if, without sales tax, they would be able to function. When people understand it is part of their fire protection and part of their law enforcement protection, they are much more interested in it and understand why the sales tax needs to be collected. I don't want to see a situation where other taxes will have to be raised to cover basic local services because the online retailers are not collecting the sales taxes that are owed on the products they sell.

I remember going into a camera store—I try to get into some stores on the weekend and find out what kinds of decisions they have to make, particularly decisions that have to do with the Federal Government. I was in the camera store and the fellow was explaining he had just lost a sale. The sales tax rate in that town is 6 percent. A man came in to buy a camera, and the camera was $2,000. But this owner of the store—the only employee of the store—took the time to help him with all of the different gadgets and how to operate it, and showed him what he needed and how to do it. Then the customer took a picture of the bar code and ordered it online because he saved $120. Technically, he still owed $120 to his State. Whether he filled out one of those forms and got it in by the end of the month, I doubt it, but that is the law. If a State meets the simplification requirements outlined in the bill, it may choose to require collection of sales taxes that are already due at the point of purchase, including sales conducted through e-commerce. Congress is not forcing States to do anything because the Federal Government should not have the role or authority in telling a State how to manage its finances. This bill specifically says that it is up to the States to enforce the law, and it is 100 percent optional. If the States do act, they are collecting taxes that are already due by the consumers.

I have been working on this sales tax fairness or marketplace fairness issue—or any of the number of names we have had on it through the years as we gained more and more support and as people came to understand more and more of what was involved—since 1997. As a former small business owner, it is important to ensure parity for all retailers by modernizing rules for sales tax collection in a way that respects technology advances and the existing practices of large and small and more traditional businesses, and this bill accomplishes that. It uniquely balances the interests of all businesses and respects the existing laws and rights of states.

The Senator from North Dakota mentioned there is a $1 million exclusion. This is to help out small businesses, new start-up businesses. If you have a start-up business or a small business, until you have sold $1 million online or through a catalog in a given year, you don't have to comply with this. But once you hit that $1 million mark, you can consider yourself a success. We know that is a very small percentage of the Nation, but an important part of the total sales of the Nation. I think that is why one year ago, 68 of our Senators joined me in supporting that Marketplace Fairness Act.

This evening, my lead cosponsors and I are again taking a stand in favor of good public policy for our Nation's retailers while highlighting the need to fix some long-standing sales tax system complexities. By balancing this collection inequity, the Marketplace Fairness Act would help States ensure the viability of the sales tax as a major revenue source for State budgets. We found in Wyoming that it often constitutes 40 percent of a municipality's revenue. It also would close opportunities that encourage tax avoidance.

Beyond the walls of Congress, the Marketplace Fairness Act has received broad support. Trade associations, Governors, mayors, legislators, and numerous businesses have expressed support for the legislation.

But there is work still to be done. Our colleagues in the House need to pass the Marketplace Fairness Act. I know some Members in the other Chamber are working on this issue. A companion Marketplace Fairness Act has been introduced. A hearing has been held, and new Members are engaged in the issue. I appreciate those efforts, and I hope our colleagues in the House will pick up the baton and complete the effort to guarantee sales tax fairness. This is the year to finish the work. Our States and businesses and

employees in those businesses cannot wait longer. Enacting the Marketplace Fairness Act is the right thing to do.

In conclusion, I wish to thank everyone associated with this bill for their hard work and efforts in getting us to this point: our countless supporters across the country, the 68 Senators who joined me to vote for a bill a year ago, the 29 cosponsors of the bill for their support, and especially my colleagues who joined me tonight for their unwavering support of this bill. I can't thank Senator ALEXANDER, Senator HEITKAMP, and Senator DURBIN enough for their efforts. I am going to yield the floor and turn it over to Senator DURBIN who has been a real champion and one of the best explainers of the parts of this bill that I have ever run into. I really appreciate his efforts and his help. We wouldn't be this far were it not for his efforts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I wish to thank my colleague from Wyoming. The most frequently asked question, no matter where I appear in Illinois or at fundraising events, is, Why can't you folks get along in Washington. What is it like to be in a place where everybody is at one another's throats and you can't accomplish anything? Why can't you do things on a bipartisan basis? What is it like today, and how do you compare it to what it was like a few years ago?

I say to them there are times when we do come together and do something important. This is one of those times—the Marketplace Fairness Act.

It was 1 year ago that Senator ENZI led the fight on this. I do not know exactly when he started it, but I was happy to join in, in his effort, when Senator Byron Dorgan retired. I called Senator ENZI and said: I would like to step in and help you with this bill. He said: Let's do it. We brought in LAMAR ALEXANDER, who made some valuable contributions to it. Then along comes HEIDI HEITKAMP, the new Senator from North Dakota. Was she ever ready for this fight—a former sales tax commissioner in that State and a former attorney general. She knew this issue inside and out. She has been a terrific ally.

So there were the four of us. What an odd grouping: two Republicans, two Democrats from literally all over the United States. We worked together, and 1 year ago today we passed this basic bill, the marketplace fairness bill. The reason for passing it was just look at the name of it: fairness.

I think about two people when I think about this bill. One of them is the mayor of Normal, IL. His name is Chris Koos, a great friend of mine and a terrific mayor. Chris, in addition to being the mayor, runs a shop where he sells running shoes and bicycles and lots of running equipment and stuff.

So I visited his shop, a great little shop. He is a terrific businessperson. He told me a story, which I have heard over and over, about people coming in, picking out the bicycle, picking out the shoes. That is perfect. Let me try them on. Let me get out and ride this. Then they say: I will get back to you. And he never sees them again. They turn around and buy the product on the Internet. So Chris is running a showroom as much as a business. There is no fairness there.

When those sales are made on the Internet, instead of in Chris Koos's shop, there is no revenue coming back to the city of Normal, IL, or McLean County. That is Chris's story, but it is the story of thousands, maybe millions, of businesses across America that are losing out now to Internet competition that is not collecting the sales tax that is supposed to be paid.

Then I met another man. I will not disclose the name of his company, but he is a major retailer in the United States. He came to visit me in my office in February or March, and he said: I want to tell you, in this last Christmas season, which is the biggest time of the year for my big-box business, we had a downturn of 8 percent in sales. Based on our projections, we thought for sure we would have more sales. We had a downturn of 8 percent. He said: I lost them to the Internet. Senator, I can't stay in business this way. I can't run a showroom for people who want to sell things on the Internet.

What we are talking about is the basic collection of sales tax for purchases on the Internet. In my State—in virtually all the States with a sales tax—there is a legal obligation to pay it. I did not realize that until a few years ago. My bookkeeper was doing my family tax return for my wife and myself. She called and said: Senator, do you want to pay the taxes you owe on Internet purchases? I said: Yes, I think I want to pay the taxes I owe. She said: Well, how much did you buy on the Internet? I said: I will try to put it together. I called her back, gave her a number. She said: Here is the calculation. On your State income tax return we will declare that you are going to pay X dollars that you owe for Illinois sales tax for purchases you made on the Internet. When I said: Is that what I am supposed to do? She said: Yes. We did it. We have done it every year since.

It turns out only 5 percent of Illinois taxpayers fill in that line on a State income tax return. I am guessing more than 5 percent of taxpayers make Internet purchases. But folks do not know their obligation, they do not follow through on their obligation, and the losers are, of course, our State and local units of government.

This bill says, if Illinois, if Indiana, if Wyoming wishes, on a voluntary basis, they may use this bill to start collecting sales tax when it comes to Internet sales into their State. It is voluntary. The States have to decide to do it. It is not a new tax. This has been said over and over: It is the existing sales tax wherever it may be—in your State, county or city—existing sales tax.

The bill provides if you are an Internet seller and have less than $1 million worth of sales in a given year—whether it is Grandma Donnelly's applesauce or whatever it happens to be—you are not covered by this, but if you have more than $1 million, yes, you have to collect the sales tax.

How can you collect it? First, the States have to provide you with the software so your business does not run into the expense of how to collect it. You say: I bet that is an elaborate undertaking. You can buy the basic software to identify the sales tax based on the consumer's address for about $15 for the basic package or maybe a couple hundred dollars at the most.

But in this situation the States are going to help the Internet retailers in developing the software so that when someone makes a purchase from Chicago, IL, or Springfield, IL, whoever is selling to me on the Internet will then forward that sales tax to the Illinois Department of Revenue. End of story. It is just that simple.

What it does, of course, is level the playing field for bricks-and-mortar businesses, providing a new source of revenue that should be collected and is owed legally in these States to the local units of government.

We passed this with enormous support from the retail community. It is not surprising. And it just was not the shop owners. It is people who understand the importance of this. This has been said over and over: These bricks-and-mortar shops around America do so much more than just sell a product. They are citizens in the community, corporate business citizens in the community. They participate. When the local high school is having their graduation program and they want somebody to help sponsor it, they will go down to the local sporting goods store for a helping hand on the program. That happens over and over. Whether it is Khoury League or Pop Warner, they are in there helping in the communities.

Isn't it important and fair that they be treated fairly here? Sixty-nine Members of the Senate thought so. Democrats and Republicans voted for it—Senator ENZI and I, Senator ALEXANDER and Senator HEITKAMP. We had 29 cosponsors of this bill who sat down and said: Let's pass it.

We passed it. We sent it to the House of Representatives, and nothing has happened—nothing. There have been some statements made over there, and I hope those statements lead to action, but it is time for them to pick up this bill and this responsibility. If they have a better approach, let's see it. Let's work on it. Let's do it on a bipartisan basis. Let's come up with an approach that works.

I cannot tell you how many different businesses have come through my door—from Sears, Roebuck down to just basic mom-and-pop businesses—

and said: What are we going to do about the House of Representatives? They just will not take up this measure.

I hope they will. They still have time to do it. We have waited 1 year. I do not want to wait much longer. In an election year, it will be almost impossible to do it.

So I hope we can get this done. It is going to mean that local businesses that are important and the backbone of our community are going to have the resources they need because the sales will take place that otherwise are not taking place today, and the local units of government will receive the proceeds from the sales tax that is collected.

One of the major marketplace retailers on the Internet is Amazon. Amazon may be the biggest. They support this bill. If you ask them why, they say: We don't want to fight this battle in 50 States and all the different cities and counties as to how much sales tax. Let's just make it uniform across the country.

That is what the bill does. So Amazon supports this. They are prepared to collect that sales tax and remit it to the States. They do not believe it is an onerous burden that they are going to face. I hope others will join them.

As I have said, 1 year ago today Members of the Senate did something we don't do enough. We put aside the partisan differences that cause so much gridlock around here and came together to pass bipartisan legislation—the Marketplace Fairness Act. On this day last year 69 Members of the Senate agreed that we need to help create jobs, invest in our communities, and keep Main Street alive and able to compete.

The Marketplace Fairness Act levels the playing field for retailers by allowing States to treat brick-and-mortar retailers the same as remote retailers in the collection of State and local sales and use taxes.

Those that benefit under our current system—retailers that have a 5- to 10-percent price advantage over their competitors on Main Street—want to continue the status quo. But it is not fair to the thousands of Main Street businesses that have worked hard to grow their businesses only to become showrooms because of this price advantage. People come in, look around, even try on merchandise, and then leave and buy the product online.

This happens many times because sales and use taxes are not collected when a product is purchased online, so it seems cheaper. But we all know the tax is still owed by the customer. In Illinois about 5 percent of customers end up paying that tax.

Abt Electronics, a retailer in Glenview, IL, knows about this challenge all too well. It is president, Michael Abt, said that ''often times with consumer electronics, the profit margin is 10 percent or less . . . when an online competitor doesn't collect taxes and then offers free shipping, it's a huge advantage for the competition.''

Abt is one of the lucky ones—it is a fine example of a successful American business that has continued to grow since opening in 1936 and supports about 1,100 jobs. It also has an online presence so it can reach even more customers.

But there are others that haven't been so lucky.

Soccer Plus in Palatine is an example of what happens when it becomes too difficult to compete with online retailers that have a 5- to 10-percent price advantage.

A year ago when Soccer Plus went out of business we lost good-paying jobs. And Palatine lost a business that was a part of our community.

There is nothing we can do now for Soccer Plus. But we can still help thousands of retailers avoid the same fate as Soccer Plus by leveling the playing field for Main Street retailers.

Since the Senate passed the Marketplace Fairness Act 1 year ago, the inequity between Main Street retailers and online retailers has only increased as e-commerce has grown.

Online retail spending grew 14 percent last year alone, to $263.3 billion, and is estimated to reach over $300 billion in 2014.

Unlike 20 years ago, or even 10 years ago, we are no longer talking about a few online retailers without access to the technology necessary to collect sales and use taxes. We are talking about hundreds of retailers, many of which are large billion-dollar businesses that have a price advantage over small Main Street businesses because they don't collect sales and use taxes.

It is time we update our laws so they match our 21st century marketplace.

Retailers in Illinois can now reach customers all over the country through this new marketplace and software has been developed to calculate sales and use tax for every jurisdiction in the country—yes, all 6,000 of them.

It is time to end this idea that technology can't handle calculating sales and use taxes. Many retailers are already using this technology to collect and remit these taxes and similar technology to calculate shipping costs. This is especially true when talking about online retailers who by their very definition use technology to sell their products.

The internet and e-commerce is no longer a baby in its crib. The baby is all grown up, running at full speed, and using outdated laws to threaten Main Street businesses.

The Senate passed a bill to update our laws and correct this inequity 1 year ago. The bill was supported by over 280 business, State, local, and labor organizations, both progressives and conservatives alike.

Yet the House has done little more than hold a hearing which was added to the long list of hearings already held on this issue over the last 20 years.

Each week that the House doesn't act is another week that Congress is picking winners and losers—the losers being Main Street retailers, the jobs these retailers provide, and the communities these businesses support.

Recently, 1,064 of these businesses sent a letter urging Chairman Goodlatte to move legislation to address the inequity they face every day. Many of these businesses were from the chairman's home State of Virginia.

How long can we expect our small businesses that are partners in our communities to stay in business when we are tying one hand behind their back?

I urge them to hold on as long as possible, but the only real solution is for Congress to act.

I strongly urge my colleagues in the House, Chairman GOODLATTE, and others, to give Main Street retailers a fighting chance by passing sales tax fairness legislation as soon as possible.

We welcome the opportunity to work with our House colleagues so that one day soon we can offer businesses and States a solution to level the playing field for retailers that is simple and fair.

In closing, I want to recognize the work Senators ENZI, ALEXANDER, and HEITKAMP have done on this issue.

Senator ENZI introduced the first bill more than a decade ago to level the playing field because he understands firsthand, being a former retailer, how unfair this is for Main Street retailers.

Last year when we passed the Marketplace Fairness Act we came one step closer to leveling this playing field by allowing States to require both brick and mortar retailers and online retailers to play by the same set of rules.

It will ensure that Main Street businesses, like Abt, have a fighting chance and no more stores will have to close because of the current inequity they face.

Again, I urge the House to pass sales tax fairness legislation. I hope that the House Judiciary Committee will move forward in the coming weeks and offer any help I can give.

I am not going to take much longer. I think we have covered the subject well, and I thank Senator ENZI from Wyoming, as well as Senator HEITKAMP from North Dakota, and especially Senator ALEXANDER from Tennessee for kicking this off.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD this article by Donnie Eatherly. Donnie is the president of P&E Distributors in Tennessee. He is also a member of the Alliance for Main Street Fairness Small Business Advisory Board. He wrote this article on May 6 that is entitled: ''It's Time To Level The Playing Field For Main Street Businesses,'' and it is a good article. It says, in the simplest terms, what he, as a businessman, sees this issue to mean.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

(Commentary, May 6, 2014)

IT'S TIME TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR MAIN STREET BUSINESSES

(By Donnie Eatherly)

Small-business owners like myself have for years urged Congress to create a level playing field that will allow us to compete with our online-only competitors. One year ago this week, the Senate overwhelmingly passed legislation that would accomplish this goal, and we're counting on the Republican-led House of Representatives to do the same.

Thanks to an antiquated tax loophole, large out-of-state online retailers can avoid collecting state sales tax on purchases made by residents in my state, which gives them a significant 9.75 percent competitive advantage over traditional brick-and-mortar shops that follow the law and collect those taxes.

To fix this unfair system, a bipartisan group of 69 senators last year passed the Marketplace Fairness Act, a common-sense reform that would ensure all businesses play by the same rules. Unfortunately, the legislation has stalled in the House.

As each week passes with no action, brick-and-mortar businesses continue losing sales to a common practice known as ''showrooming,'' in which customers browse and test items at local stores and then head home to buy them online knowing they will not have to pay state sales tax.

For many small businesses such as mine, every sale counts and losing this revenue hurts our ability to grow our businesses and hire new employees. We cannot wait any longer for a federal solution to this problem.

Main Street business owners are not asking for a handout, and we're certainly not afraid of competition from the big guys. But it simply does not make sense for out-of-state online retailers to enjoy such a big competitive edge over local businesses that give back to their communities.

Despite what some have said about the Marketplace Fairness Act, this is not a new tax, nor does it create any taxes. These taxes are already on the books, and the legislation would simply give states the necessary tools to collect them. As conservative Republican Rep. Steve Womack of Arkansas has said, ''It's not new, it's due!''

Not only does this level the playing field for all businesses, but it would also put additional revenues in state coffers to fund vital services such as education and public safety. Importantly, the legislation also includes a $1 million exemption on remote sales so to put that into perspective, over 99 percent of all online sellers will not be affected by this legislation in any way. In other words, all the mom and pop stores who do business on the Internet don't have to worry about it.

Additionally, for the less than 1 percent of online sellers who will be subject to collecting sales and use taxes under this bill, the legislation requires each participating state to provide free tax software that will allow them to quickly and efficiently calculate, collect and remit sales tax. The proposal also includes liability protections for sellers and limits against audits.

This reform is long overdue, and Main Street businesses cannot wait any longer for help. For those who believe in state's rights and the basic principle of limited government, we should all agree that Washington, D.C., should no longer be in the business of picking winners and losers in the marketplace.

It's time for the House of Representatives to stand up for the small businesses in their districts, follow the Senate's lead and finally pass marketplace fairness.

Mr. DURBIN. So let's get together. We did it in the Senate on a bipartisan basis, with a big vote—some 69 votes. We can do it in the House of Representatives. Let's get something done this year that is going to help businesses across America be profitable and hire more people, put more folks to work across the United States.

At this time, I yield the floor to my friend from Wyoming.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from Illinois for his excellent explanation. I have been joining him and watching him do that for several years. It would be nice to get this finished.

There are a few things we may not have mentioned that are sometimes raised when people ask me about marketplace fairness. One of them is from small towns. They say: We have to go on the Internet because there is not enough selection in our town and we can get things we cannot buy in town and some of the things we can get at a lower price by going out of town.

I always ask them, when they are figuring that lower price, are they figuring it without sales tax or with sales tax, because it is not truly a lower price if what you are doing is just cheating your local merchant out of the right to collect the sales tax—which he does not get paid for anyway—and submitting it, when the out-of-State retailer does not have to do that.

As to the revenue that companies are voluntarily collecting now—and there are a number of them that recognize it is difficult for everybody to keep track of their purchases, so they voluntarily collect it—the question I have had is, Does that money they voluntarily collect go back to the States? Yes, it absolutely does, and it will work that way under the bill as well. It is not money that you are just sending to wherever you ordered it from. You are sending it to where it was ordered from, and then they are sending it back to States.

That is what these programs the Senator from Illinois mentioned do. They keep track of what State all the purchases were from. Here is how difficult that is. When you call in your order or you do it online, at some point you have to put in an address with a ZIP Code. That ZIP Code is all the program needs in order to be able to assess your tax. That is how those programs are designed. So if you have to give an address, you have to give the ZIP Code. If you have to give the ZIP Code, they already know what the tax is going to be. So there is no difficulty for any size retailer to be able to figure out what the tax is they are supposed to be doing.

Another argument I hear is the online place provides free shipping. I want you to know your local retailer provides free shipping and immediate pickup. Somebody had to pay the shipping on it. It got to the store, and you can pick it up right there, instantly. You do not have to wait 2 or 3 days or pay a special rate to get it overnight. You can get it right then.

One of the things that is discouraging for retailers is, if you waited on somebody and they got the barcode and they ordered it online and it came in and it was not exactly what they wanted, then they come to you and say: Well, this is the brand you are selling. Won't you take it back?

Let's see, they did not make anything on it, they used a whole bunch of time, and now they want you to put it in your inventory. That is very discouraging.

So think about those local clerks. They are your friends and neighbors who are being hired locally who really depend on a job. If everything gets ordered online, they will not have a job. Your friends will have to move, and you will not have as much selection as you have right now in your local store.

Again, I wish to thank all those who voted for it, all those who have worked on it, and all those who are considering voting for it the next time they get it because I know we have picked up some momentum since we did it last time. There are people who have heard from their communities now who say: Well, I did not vote right last time, but I will get it right next time. I am looking forward to that, and I am looking for the House to finish it and send it to the President.

Thanks again, I say to Senator DURBIN, for his tremendous effort.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING KEN DUGAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the career of Ken Dugan, center director of the Sierra Nevada Job Corps. Ken is retiring this month after spending 39 years in the Job Corps program, 36 of which as a center director. Throughout this time, Ken has worked tirelessly to help improve the lives of at-risk teenagers and young adults through vocational and academic training.

When Ken started his first assignment with the San Jose Job Corps in 1975, he never envisioned that almost 4 decades later he would be retiring with the organization. However, Job Corps and its mission soon became a way of life for him. After stints as center director at the San Jose and Hawaii Job Corps centers, we in Nevada were extremely fortunate to have Ken take over as center director for the Sierra Nevada Job Corps, the only Job Corps center in the State. During his 19 years

with Sierra Nevada, Ken oversaw the relocation and new construction of the center, the third time he had done so with a center. The new center, with Ken at its head, has greatly enhanced the living and learning environment for thousands of students over the years.

During his unprecedented 36-year tenure as a center director, the Job Corps centers Ken has run have been honored with numerous performance awards from the U.S. Department of Labor, not to mention Recognition of Performance and Community Value awards by the legislatures and Congressional delegations of California, Hawaii, and Nevada. On behalf of the U.S. Senate, I commend Ken Dugan on a lifetime of public service, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

AROOSTOOK ASPIRATIONS INITIATIVE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I would like to engage my fellow Senator from Maine in a colloquy regarding a new citizen-led education enterprise in our great State, the Aroostook Aspirations Initiative, AAI.

Aroostook County, where I was born and raised, is defined by an extraordinary work ethic and the enduring spirit of its people. It is Maine's northernmost and largest county, and its economy depends on an able and educated workforce. Too often, the goals of hard-working students in Aroostook County are impeded by the costs of higher education and the complexities of choosing a career. Thanks to the extraordinary commitment of Ray and Sandy Gauvin, those obstacles are being addressed in dramatic and dynamic ways.

Cognizant of the needs of students and indebted to a community that enabled their own success, the Gauvins have designed a multifaceted program aimed not only at educating but also empowering students in Aroostook County. Through AAI, they have established a scholarship fund, launched by their own generous donation, for high school students seeking postsecondary education. These scholarships target economically disadvantaged and first-generation college students throughout the county. AAI collaborates with the University of Maine at Presque Isle and at Fort Kent, the Northern Maine Community College, Husson University, area businesses and entrepreneurs to offer seminars to guide students throughout their postsecondary education. Students can also team up with Aroostook County employers through a cooperative internship program that gives them practical experience in careers they would like to pursue. These internships help lay the foundation for invaluable relationships with professional mentors.

I am extremely proud of the Gauvins, the business leaders with whom they have joined forces, and the accomplished students they have supported and will continue to assist through this wonderful program. I am confident that this initiative will enrich Aroostook County, its families, its future workforce, and its economy.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I wish to associate myself with the comments of the senior Senator from Maine. I, too, am proud to commend the Aroostook Aspirations Initiative, AAI, and the Gauvin County Scholarship Fund for their efforts to increase educational and economic opportunity in Aroostook County. AAI's partnerships with all 16 of the county's high schools and all 4 of the county's institutions of higher education serve as a model of what forward-thinking private citizens, schools, colleges, universities, and businesses can accomplish when they set out to better their communities.

The initiative takes on the goal of increasing access to education for first-generation college students and those from lower income families, clearly critical in its own right as a matter of fairness and pairs it with measures designed to harness the benefits these students will bring to the local economy. Scholarship recipients are directed to local colleges and universities, allowing them to forge connections with local business leaders through AAI-coordinated internships. As a capstone, AAI matches scholarship recipients with mentors who help them craft business plans in their senior year of college, ensuring that each graduate has a roadmap as they enter the workforce. The first group of scholarship recipients will graduate in 2015, and I look forward to observing their accomplishments and the added energy they will bring to their communities.

None of this would be possible without the vision and generosity of Ray and Sandy Gauvin, along with that of the businesses, schools, colleges, and community organizations that have heeded their call in supporting AAI. The Gauvins' personal experience, as a first-generation college student and a career teacher, respectively, clearly inspired the effort they have spearheaded. As they noted in an interview with the Bangor Daily News, they believe ''education is the great equalizer,'' and I could not agree more. I thank the Gauvins and the initiative's business and education partners for stepping up to support the county's next generation of leaders. I cannot wait to see, with their communities behind them, what these students will achieve.

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, last week, Armenians and friends of Armenians around the world solemnly remembered the horrific dislocation and slaughter that began in 1915 and resulted in more than 1.5 million deaths and another half million Armenians driven from their ancient homeland. The Armenian Genocide was carried out by the Ottoman Empire in its waning years amidst the chaos of World War I. For what was an undeniably gruesome period in human history, Theodore Roosevelt called the Armenian Genocide ''the greatest crime of the war.''

It is this terrible chapter, more than any other single event, that led to the Armenian diaspora, including in the United States and my home State of Rhode Island. For generations, the Armenian community has been a strong and hardworking part of our Rhode Island family, producing great leaders in both government and business. Whether at flag raising ceremonies, church festivals, the wonderful St. Vartanantz Annual Bazaar at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, or at commemorations of the Armenian Genocide at the monument in the North Burial Ground in Providence, Armenians are part of the fabric of Rhode Island.

Since achieving independence after the fall of the Soviet Union, Armenia has at last established a foothold for democracy in the Caucasus after centuries of outside domination and totalitarian rule. I have long supported foreign assistance to Armenia to help grow its economy and strengthen its Democratic institutions, and I will continue to do so.

But perhaps the most meaningful thing we can do for Armenia and for Armenians in Rhode Island is to help cast a light on that brutal genocide 99 years ago. To this day, too many people are unaware of this tragedy, due in part to the unwillingness of some to call it what it was. But make no mistake; the slaughter of innocent Armenians was genocide, plain and simple. Indeed, our modern term ''genocide'' was first coined to describe both the Jewish Holocaust and the plight of the Armenians under Ottoman persecution.

Along with my Rhode Island colleague Senator JACK REED, I have proudly cosponsored resolutions in the Senate condemning the genocide and calling on the President of the United States to ensure that U.S. foreign policy appropriately and without equivocation reflects the realities of the Armenian Genocide. This solemn recognition is important not only to so many Armenians in Rhode Island and throughout the world, but to our human obligation to the truth.

IMMIGRATION RULE CHANGE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, the Departments of Homeland Security and Commerce announced a proposed rule change that would extend employment authorizations to spouses of certain H–1B workers. The rule says that spouses who have already begun the process of seeking legal permanent resident status through employment, or those who have been granted an extension beyond their 6-year limit of stay in the country, are eligible for employment authorizations.

On a call with media today, Homeland Security Deputy Secretary Mayorkas said that the intent of this regulation is to make it more attractive for foreign workers to come to and stay in the United States. Under current law, Congress authorized 85,000 H–1B visas to be available each year for high-skilled workers. Yet, with this sweeping rule, more workers will be allowed to come, work, and compete with U.S. workers in high-skilled fields despite the well-documented fraud in the H–1B program. The Department believes that the rule change will allow more than 97,000 people to obtain employment authorization in the first year alone.

While we're all interested in attracting the best and the brightest foreign workers to the United States, the Obama administration clearly doesn't seem concerned with the millions of unemployed Americans, and those who have been forced out of their jobs because companies prefer to hire lower-paid workers from abroad.

In addition to their lack of compassion and understanding for American workers, it is disturbing that the administration is once again circumventing Congress and implementing their own rules. As with other unilateral actions this administration has taken, I question their legal authority to issue this rule.

In 2001, Congress explicitly laid out in statute that the Secretary could provide work authorizations to certain spouses of foreign workers. Congress said that work authorizations could be given to spouses of L1, intercompany transfers, and E, treaty traders/investors, visa holders. Congress did not, at that time, give spouses of H–1B visa holders the permission to work. It could have, but it did not.

The administration may claim that it has broad authority to issue work authorizations to anyone in the United States. If the executive branch has such broad authority, then why would Congress explicitly lay out the category of visa holders and foreign nationals who could work in the U.S.?

And, what will come next? Where will this administration stop? What other categories of individuals will be granted work authorizations? The rule allows spouses of ''certain'' H–1B visa holders to work. What about the others? Why didn't the administration do a more comprehensive rule for all H–1B spouses? Maybe the Department realized they were already pushing the envelope with its authority. Will the administration push back against advocates of other nonimmigrant categories, or refuse to expand the rule to all spouses of H–1B visa holders?

What is frustrating about this rule is that it flies in the face of the immigration bill that the Senate passed last summer. The bill, if passed, would allow spouses of H–1B holders to work. Section 4102 of S. 744 would give the Secretary of Homeland Security the authority to issue work authorization to those who are accompanying or following to join a principal H–1B worker. Inclusion of this provision signals that the Secretary does not currently have authority.

Originally, the bill written by the Gang of Eight, only gave that authority to the Secretary if the home country of the foreign national did the same for U.S. workers. The Gang of Eight's bill said, ''The Secretary of Homeland Security shall authorize the alien spouse to engage in employment in the United States only if such spouse is a national of a foreign country that permits reciprocal employment.''

The intent of the authors of the Senate bill was to ensure that American spouses were treated equally. The rule does not take this into consideration.

The Obama administration claims it wants immigration reform, but they can not wait for Congress. They act on their own. And, they do it to the detriment of American workers. We need to get immigration reform right, and doing ad-hoc rules that fly in the face of the statute are not helpful to the process. What is next? Will the President unilaterally legalize the undocumented population because he can not have his way with Congress? President Obama has to prove that he can be trusted. Otherwise, American workers and the American people will continue to lose out because of his policies.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID THIBODEAUX

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished coach and sports enthusiast, Mr. David ''Big Daddy'' Clyde Thibodeaux. Coach Thibodeaux is best known throughout his hometown of Acadiana as ''Big Daddy'' for his warm and fatherly spirit to his family and former players alike. Mr. Thibodeaux served with distinction as head coach of both the Stone Junkies Softball Team and AAU Team Louisiana. In 2005, Coach Thibodeaux was awarded for his remarkable coaching career when he was inducted into the AAU Louisiana Hall of Fame.

Coach Thibodeaux disseminated his sage knowledge of the game to more than just his players. Through his work as a sports announcer, Coach Thibodeaux also imparted his wisdom of basketball and football with sports fans from around the country. Over the course of his announcing career Coach Thibodeaux broadcast live on KPEL's ESPN 1420 Radio, Friday Night Football, Big Time Sports Show on Sundays, and Kevin Foote's Wednesday Football Show in the morning, as well as the online show of PrepBallers.net. His love of people and sports was evident to everyone who met Coach Thibodeaux, and his life embodied a career of service to others and God.

David Thibodeaux is survived by his wife, Rose A. Thibodeaux; his son Derrick and Niema LeBlanc Sr., of Petal, MS; his daughter, Adrienne and Johnathan Goodie of Breaux Bridge; two step brothers, Raymond Green of New Iberia and Colby Green of Dallas, TX; his uncle, Yancy Thibodeaux of Reno, NV; his brother-in-law, Nolan Hamilton Sr. of New Iberia; his nephew and godchild, Nolan Hamilton Jr., of New Iberia; six grandchildren, Dayton LeBlanc, Braylen Goodie, Derrick LeBlanc Jr., Carmyn Goodie, Kennedy LeBlanc, and Jalen Goodie; two nieces, Patience Thibodeaux and Setonya Mouton; nephew, Gregory Martin Thibodeaux Jr; great niece, Zaylen Mouton; great nephew, Zyren Lastrapes; and his aunt, Janzina Thibodeaux.

It is with my heartfelt and greatest sincerity that I ask my colleagues to join me, along with David ''Big Daddy'' Thibodeaux's family, in recognizing the life and many accomplishments of this incredible coach, mentor, and friend, as well as his lasting impact throughout the State of Louisiana.

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT BATON ROUGE CENTENNIAL

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Southern University located in Baton Rouge, LA, as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. Southern University at Baton Rouge was established on March 9, 1914, when Southern University moved from New Orleans to Scott's Bluff, overlooking the Mississippi River in the northern section of Baton Rouge. The University opened its doors just outside of Baton Rouge with nine professors and just one central building to 47 students. The original building, now called the Archives and Information Center, housed the administration, all classrooms, and even served as an all-girls dorm. The original campus is now a part of the Louisiana African American Heritage Trail.

Southern University remains the only land-grant school in the State of Louisiana and now has more than 200 buildings worth more than $200 million. This year's Southern University and A&M College at Baton Rouge, SUBR, Centennial Celebration will honor Southern's historical contributions as well as acknowledge exceptional alumni in a variety of fields, including its first president, Dr. Joseph Samuel Clark. The Jaguar Nation of SouthernUniversity is well-known for its role in the civil rights movement in the State of Louisiana and for its nationally recognized marching band nicknamed, ''the Human Jukebox.''

Undergirding all of the centennial events will be an ambitious fundraising effort that will solicit financial support from corporations, foundations, businesses, religious organizations, alumni, university retirees, former and current board members, former system presidents and chancellors, former student campus leaders and athletes, current faculty, staff and students, elected and appointed officials, community leaders, and the public in general. The

funds generated will be credited to a scholarship fund to assist qualified SUBR students.

Today, Southern University at Baton Rouge enrolls more than 7,000 across 44 undergraduate degree programs. Southern also offers 30 post-graduate degree programs including six doctoral programs and an ABA-accredited law school program. It is with my heartfelt and greatest sincerity that I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Southern University at Baton Rouge as it celebrates its 100th Anniversary.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CLAY COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Clay County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Clay County worth over $20 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $997,000 to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be their work through Main Street Iowa to renovate the Spencer Community Theater. In 1982, this building was transformed from the vacant Spencer Grocer Building into the Spencer City Theatre, a center for arts, culture, and community gathering. This funding has allowed for the space to again be transformed. With these renovations, the Spencer City Theatre is now a facility that can better serve the Clay County community.

Among the highlights:

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics; It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Spencer to use that money to leverage other investments to jump-start change and renewal. I am so pleased that Clay County has earned $50,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Clay County has received $797,135 in Harkin Grants. Similarly, schools in Clay County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $110,000.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Clay County has received more than $14 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Clay County's fire departments have received over $705,345 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Clay County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Clay County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Clay County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.•

SAC COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and

residents of Sac County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to successfully acquire financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than $5.6 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be Sac County's excellent work to secure funding for firefighting equipment through Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, fire grants. I look forward to seeing how Fremont County has implemented this important funding in their community.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Northwest Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Sac County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Sac County, I have fought for funding for small airport funding at the Federal Aviation Administration, which allowed community leaders to successfully acquire over $1.5 million in airport improvements, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than $132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Sac County has received $158,167 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Sac County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling $99,430.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Sac County has received more than $3.1 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Sac County's fire departments have received over $585,000 for firefighter safety and operations equipment.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Sac County, both those with and without disabilities. And they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Sac County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Sac County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

REMEMBERING JOE DINI

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I rise in remembrance of Joe Dini, a true Nevada statesman and dedicated public servant.

Joe found his calling leading Nevada's citizens in the legislature through more than 20 years of public service. Elected for an unprecedented eight sessions, he is remembered as a friend and a gentleman by both his colleagues and me. His leadership and exemplary contributions to the State of Nevada are, and continue to remain, unmatched.

A quiet and humble man with an aptitude for compromise, Joe unquestionably sustained our State throughout his long tenure. Supporting Nevada's economic backbone through his involvement in the gaming industry, Joe expanded Nevada's economy and presence among the Nation. As a legislator, his focus was not only on issues of importance in his rural district, such as agriculture and water policy, but also on issues of necessity in the entire State regarding education, health care, and, of course, his legacy, the bistate Tahoe Regional Planning Agency.

Moreover, his loyalty and dedication to his community civics was exceptional. Knowing and fighting for his constituency's concerns, all while searching for what was best for Nevada, despite rifts in political ideologies, are two things Nevadans will never forget about Joe.

Born in 1929, rising from modest beginnings, Joe, the son of an Italian immigrant saloonkeeper, was raised in Yerington, a very small, rural community in Nevada. Yet through achievement of self and service, he became one of the most influential Nevadans in our State's rich history. His motivation and selflessness embodies the ''Battle Born'' State. With his passing, Nevada lost a great man who is immortalized for encouraging respect among his community and fellow assemblymen.

My entire family extends our thoughts and condolences to Joe's loved ones, and we thank them for their service as well.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Assemblyman Dini for his unwavering loyalty and dedication to Nevada.●

COMMENDING NEW JERSEY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I wish to honor 59 high school seniors in Camden County, NJ for their commendable decision to enlist in the United States Armed Forces. Of these 59, 18 have elected to join the United States Army: Troy Anderson, Cody Andreczski, Jacob Bauscher, Ennajee Brisbane, Juliana Davis, Nicholas Dzindzio, Kristopher Espinal, Tyler Fisher, Glenn Gray, Rajven Herrera, Austin Hughes, Velez Lopez Velez, Anthony Nigro, Chandler Pons, Tyron Robinson, Orlando Santos, Joshua White, and Gordon Zenzola. Five have joined the United States Navy: Raul Paneto, Spencer Wiggin, Taquayla Wilson, Angel Gonzalez, and Kenneth

Ralph. Five have elected to join the United States Air Force: Ryan Swift, Ryan Bauer, Alam Nazmul, Christian Burgos, and Alex Thach. Nineteen have elected to join the United States Marine Corps: Michael Porch, Thomas Hutchison, Johnny Nunez, Jerome Williamston, Jordan Freeman, David Zane, Anthony Reed, Emily Krowicki, Randy Nguyen, Nicholas Celenza, Ian MacKenzie, William Hemphill, Steven Charyszyn, James Pitcher, Ryan Gustafson, Douglas Bardalesarevalo, Ezekiel Williams, Kyle Azzari, and Michael Hurley. And 12 have elected to join the New Jersey National Guard: Caitlyn Mount, Clarimar Rodriguez-Vargas, Zachary Blome, Christopher Foschini, Michael Lombardo, Kevin Martina, Patrick Martina, Patrick O'Hanlon, Kristie Siegman, Christopher Robinson, Kylah Thomas, and Charles Reiss.

These 59 will also be honored on May 20, 2014 at an ''Our Community Salutes South Jersey'' recognition ceremony in Voorhees Township, NJ.

The future of our Nation remains strong because of young men and women like these 59 individuals who have decided to step forward and commit themselves to the defense of our Nation and to upholding the ideals upon which it was founded. Indeed, these New Jerseyans represent the very best of America, and they should rest assured that the full support of the Senate as well as the American people, are with them in whatever challenges may lie ahead.

It is thanks to the dedication of untold numbers of patriots like these 59 that we are able to meet here today, in the Senate, and openly debate the best solutions to the many and diverse problems that confront our country. It is thanks to their sacrifices that the United States of America remains a beacon of hope and freedom throughout the world. We owe them, along with all those who serve our country, a deep debt of gratitude.●

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–5580. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''alpha-Alkyl-omega-Hydroxypoly (Oxypropylene) and/or Poly (Oxyethylene) Polymers Where the Alkyl Chain Contains a Minimum of Six Carbons etc.; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance; Technical Correction'' (FRL No. 9907–59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5581. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fenoxaprop-ethyl; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9909–72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5582. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Tebuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 9909–31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5583. A communication from the Acting Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Importation of Cape Gooseberry From Colombia Into the United States'' (RIN0579–AD79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5584. A communication from the Associate General Counsel, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5585. A communication from the Associate Administrator of the Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Irish Potatoes Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon; Decreased Assessment Rate'' (Docket No. AMS–FV–13–0093) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5586. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5587. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 30, 2014; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5588. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5589. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a section of the Arms Export Control Act (RSAT 13–3700); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5590. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2014–0049—2014–0053); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–5591. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Secretary of the Army's recommendation to authorize the Willamette River Floodplain Restoration Project, Lower Coast Fork and the Middle Fork, Oregon; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5592. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Secretary of the Army's recommendation to authorize the Neuse River Basin Ecosystem Restoration Project, North Carolina; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5593. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Region 4 States; Visibility Protection Infrastructure Requirements for the 1997 and 2006 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards'' (FRL No. 9910–42–Region 4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5594. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Virginia; Regional Haze Five-Year Progress Report State Implementation Plan'' (FRL No. 9910–34–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5595. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Delaware; Regional Haze Five-Year Progress Report State Implementation Plan'' (FRL No. 9910–33–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5596. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Determination of Attainment of the 2006 24-Hour Fine Particulate Matter Standard for the Pittsburgh-Beaver Valley Nonattainment Area'' (FRL No. 9910–32–Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5597. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulation of Fuels and Fuel Additives: 2013 Cellulosic Biofuel Standard'' (FRL No. 9910–18–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5598. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans; Washington: Puget Sound Ozone Maintenance Plan'' (FRL No. 9910–02–Region 10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5599. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California San Francisco Bay Area and Chico Nonattainment Areas; Fine Particulate Matter Emissions Inventories; Correction'' (FRL No. 9909–16–Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5600. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Identification of Nonattainment Classification and Deadlines for Submission of State Implementation Plan (SIP) Provisions for the 1997 Fine Particle (PM2.5) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS'' (FRL No. 9909–93–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5601. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Agency's Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2014 through 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5602. A joint communication from the Director of National Intelligence and the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to foreign counterspace programs; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC–5603. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) Quarterly Report to Congress; Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2014''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC–5604. A communication from the Deputy Director, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System for Federally Qualified Health Centers; Changes to Contracting Policies for Rural Health Clinics; and Changes to Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 Enforcement Actions for Proficiency Testing Referral'' ((RIN0938–AR62) (CMS–1443-FC)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 1, 2014; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5605. A communication from the Public Printer, Government Printing Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Report for fiscal year 2013; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1611. A bill to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans (Rept. No. 113–157).

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 Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COONS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 2291. A bill to require that Peace Corps volunteers be subject to the same limitations regarding coverage of abortion services as employees of the Peace Corps with respect to coverage of such services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2292. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2293. A bill to clarify the status of the North Country, Ice Age, and New England National Scenic Trails as units of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2294. A bill to require a survey of the preferences of members of the Armed Forces regarding military pay and benefits; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. COONS, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. WALSH, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 2295. A bill to establish the National Commission on the Future of the Army, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BENNET, Mr. VITTER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BURR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. SCOTT):

S. Res. 438. A resolution congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 15th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 4 through May 10, 2014; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 439. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 370

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 375

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 375, a bill to require Senate candidates to file designations, statements, and reports in electronic form.

S. 462

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to enhance the strategic partnership between the United States and Israel.

S. 654

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants.

S. 933

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 933, a bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to extend the authorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program through fiscal year 2018.

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 933, supra.

S. 942

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 942, a bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

S. 1012

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1012, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve operations of recovery auditors under the Medicare integrity program, to increase transparency and accuracy in audits conducted by contractors, and for other purposes.

S. 1143

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1143, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act with respect to physician supervision of therapeutic hospital outpatient services.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1174, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, known as the Borinqueneers.

S. 1188

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1188, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the definition of full-time employee for purposes of the individual mandate in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

S. 1239

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1239, a bill to expand the research and awareness activities of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to scleroderma, and for other purposes.

S. 1406

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1406, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1622

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1622, a bill to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

S. 1645

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1645, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 1697

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1697, a bill to support early learning.

S. 1728

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1728, a bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to improve ballot accessibility to uniformed services voters and overseas voters, and for other purposes.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. HAGAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1862, a bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the Monuments Men, in recognition of their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and artifacts of cultural importance during and following World War II.

S. 2004

At the request of Mr. BEGICH, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2004, a bill to ensure the safety of all users of the transportation system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, children, older individuals, and individuals with disabilities, as they travel on and across federally funded streets and highways.

S. 2013

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2013, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the removal of Senior Executive Service employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs for performance, and for other purposes.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. WALSH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 2154

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2154, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children Program.

S. 2177

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2177, a bill to establish an Office of Forensic Science and a Forensic Science Board, to strengthen and promote confidence in the criminal justice system by ensuring scientific validity, reliability, and accuracy in forensic testing, and for other purposes.

S. 2192

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2192, a bill to amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such an Act.

S. 2208

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2208, a bill to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to rely on State examinations for certain financial institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2231

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2231, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide an individual with a mental health assessment before the individual enlists in the Armed Forces or is commissioned as an officer in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 2270

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2270, a bill to clarify the application of certain leverage and risk-based requirements under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

S. 2277

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2277, a bill to prevent further Russian aggression toward Ukraine and other sovereign states in Europe and Eurasia, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 19

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S. RES. 225

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 225, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate that Congress should establish a joint select committee to investigate and report on the attack on the United States diplomatic facility and American personnel in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11, 2012.

S. RES. 353

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr.

BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 353, a resolution designating September 2014 as ''National Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month''.

S. RES. 364

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 364, a resolution expressing support for the internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace.

S. RES. 421

At the request of Mr. CHAMBLISS, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 421, a resolution expressing the gratitude and appreciation of the Senate for the acts of heroism and military achievement by the members of the United States Armed Forces who participated in the June 6, 1944, amphibious landing at Normandy, France, and commending them for leadership and valor in an operation that helped bring an end to World War II.

At the request of Mr. MORAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 421, supra.

S. RES. 433

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 433, a resolution condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the Government Girls Secondary School in the northeastern province of Borno in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 433, supra.

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 433, supra.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 2292. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to announce the introduction of emergency legislation to provide relief to students and young graduates who are drowning in debt. Make no mistake. This is an emergency. Student loan debt is exploding, and it threatens the stability of our young people and the future of our economy.

Outstanding student loan debt now totals $1.2 trillion, and each year students are taking on more and more debt. In 2012 an astonishing 71 percent of college seniors owed student loans. From 2004 to 2012 the average student loan balance increased by 70 percent. Millions of young people are struggling to keep up with student loan payments.

The economic impact is real. Federal watchdog agencies such as the Federal Reserve, the Treasury, and the Consumer Protection Bureau are all sounding the alarm. Every day this exploding debt stops more and more young people from moving out of their parents' homes, from saving for a downpayment, from buying a home, from buying cars, from starting small businesses, from saving for retirement, from making the purchases that keep this economy moving forward.

It doesn't have to be this way. Congress set interest rates on student loans at artificially high rates that generate extra money for the government. The GAO recently projected that the government will bring in $66 billion just on the slice of student loans from 2007 to 2012. Those are the kinds of profits that would make a Fortune 500 CEO proud.

We should cut those interest rates and we should cut those government profits. We should give our young people a break and boost our economy. This morning two dozens Senators joined to introduce the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act which will do just that. The idea is simple. With interest rates near historic lows, homeowners, businesses, and even local governments have refinanced their debts, but many people who took out student loans before July 1 of last year are locked into a rate of nearly 7 percent. Older loans run 8 percent, 9 percent, and even higher. We need to bring those rates down, and we need to do it now.

Bank on Students would give student loan borrowers the opportunity to lower their interest rates on old loans to match the rates the government offers to new borrowers today; that is, 3.86 percent for undergraduate loans, 5.41 percent for graduate loans, and 6.41 percent for PLUS loans. I want to be clear—those rates are still higher than what it costs the government to run its student loan program. Our work will not be done until we have eliminated all of the profits from the student loan program, but this legislation is an important step in that direction.

Forty million borrowers in this country have student loan debt, and many of those individuals could save hundreds or even thousands of dollars a year with this bill. They need this help now.

Last year nearly every Republican in Congress—in the House and in the Senate—voted for the exact same loan rates that are in this legislation. Republican leaders, such as Speaker of the House JOHN BOEHNER, embraced 3.86 percent for new undergraduate borrowers as ''consistent'' with Republican policy proposals. OK, it may not be my preferred rate, but if Republicans believe that 3.86 percent is good enough for new undergraduate borrowers, then it should be good enough for existing undergraduate borrowers who also worked hard to get an education and need to refinance their loans. Let's bring down this rate for all our kids because there is no reason on Earth to say that some kids can get a better deal when they all worked hard to do exactly what we wanted them to do—get an education.

This legislation won't add a single dime to our deficit. The Bank on Students legislation adopts the Buffett rule, which limits tax loopholes for millionaires and billionaires, and it requires that every dollar we bring in as a result of that change go directly to supporting lower interest rates on existing student loans. It is simple: Invest in billionaires or invest in students.

Refinancing won't fix everything that is broken in our higher education system. We need to bring down the cost of college and we need more accountability for how schools spend Federal dollars. Many of my Democratic colleagues have introduced or are introducing legislation aimed at lowering the overall cost of college, and I support those efforts.

The need for comprehensive reform must not blind us to the urgency of addressing the massive debt that is already crushing young people. This is a question of economics, but it is also a question of values. These young people are saddled with student loan debt not because they went to the mall and ran up charges on a credit card. They worked hard and learned new skills that would benefit the country and help us build a stronger America. They deserve a fair shot at an affordable education.

This is personal for me. I was the first person in my family to graduate from college. I went to a commuter college where the tuition was $50 a semester, and it opened a million doors

for me. I got a fair shot because I grew up in an America that made it a priority to invest in young people.

I believe in an America that puts students ahead of billionaires, an America that puts education within reach of every kid who works hard, an America that will give every kid a fair shot at building a future.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2294. A bill to require a survey of the preferences of members of the Armed Forces regarding military pay and benefits; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, today I am introducing, with Senator CORNYN, the Servicemembers' Compensation Empowerment Act of 2014. This bipartisan legislation will direct the Department of Defense's (DoD) Military Retirement and Modernization Commission to formally survey military personnel on pay and benefits, and to take relative preferences into account as the Commission prepares its recommendations.

Virginia is more connected to the military than any other State. As I have traveled throughout the Commonwealth, I have had the opportunity to meet and discuss military benefits with servicemembers, veterans, and their families. The overriding concern on the part of our military and their families is sequestration. It has forced the military to allow the budget to drive strategy, rather than strategy to drive our budget. As a member of both the Senate Armed Services and Budget Committees, I firmly believe that all budget proposals should be considered carefully in light of the need for deficit reduction, the need to maintain a strong military, and the responsibility we have to support our servicemembers with resources to complete their mission.

The Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission was established by the fiscal year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, to conduct a review of military compensation and retirement systems and to make recommendations to enable the quality of life of our military and their families and achieve fiscal sustainability for the future. As of now, no official study has been conducted by the Commission to determine the relative value of compensation and benefit programs to the military personnel who depend on them. Under my legislation, the Commission would be required to survey randomly selected members of the military concerning basic pay, housing allowances, bonuses and special pay, dependent healthcare and retirement pay and report its results to Congress.

Servicemembers deserve to have their voices heard as changes to the pay and benefits packages they depend on most are considered. By formally surveying military personnel on the benefits they value most, we can ensure the Military Retirement and Modernization Commission and members of Congress have the best possible understanding of how cost-saving proposals would impact our servicemembers and their families, allowing them to make decisions with evidence-based analysis.

This bill gives servicemembers a voice in the process, and will assure that reforms will take a scientific study into account. We must balance the competing needs to control rising costs with ensuring we meet the needs of military personnel and their families.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 438—CONGRATULATING THE STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATORS OF CHARTER SCHOOLS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR THEIR ONGOING CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION, AND SUPPORTING THE IDEALS AND GOALS OF THE 15TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK, TO BE HELD MAY 4 THROUGH MAY 10, 2014

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. BENNET, Mr. VITTER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COONS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. BURR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. SCOTT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to.:

S. RES. 438

Whereas charter schools are public schools that do not charge tuition and enroll any student who wants to attend a charter school, often through a random lottery when too many students want to attend a single charter school;

Whereas high-performing charter schools deliver a high-quality public education and challenge all students to reach their potential for academic success;

Whereas charter schools promote innovation and excellence in public education;

Whereas charter schools throughout the United States provide millions of families with diverse and innovative educational options for their children;

Whereas high-performing charter schools are dramatically increasing student achievement and college-going rates;

Whereas charter schools are authorized by a designated public entity and—

(1) respond to the needs of communities, families, and students in the United States; and

(2) promote the principles of quality, accountability, choice, and innovation;

Whereas in exchange for flexibility and autonomy, charter schools are held accountable by the public authorizers of such charter schools for improving student achievement and for sound financial and operational management;

Whereas charter schools are required to meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) in the same manner as traditional public schools;

Whereas charter schools often set higher expectations for students, beyond the requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), to ensure that such charter schools are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas 42 States and the District of Columbia have enacted laws authorizing charter schools;

Whereas more than 6,400 charter schools serve more than 2,500,000 children;

Whereas in the United States—

(1) in 135 school districts, more than 10 percent of public school students are enrolled in charter schools;

(2) in 32 school districts, at least 20 percent of public school students are enrolled in charter schools; and

(3) in 7 districts, at least 30 percent of public school students are enrolled in charter schools;

Whereas charter schools improve the achievement of students enrolled in such charter schools and collaborate with traditional public schools to improve public education for all students;

Whereas charter schools—

(1) give parents the freedom to choose public schools;

(2) routinely measure parental satisfaction levels; and

(3) must prove their ongoing success to parents, policymakers, and the communities served by such charter schools;

Whereas approximately 920,000 students were on waiting lists to attend charter schools before the beginning of the 2012–2013 academic year; and

Whereas the 15th annual National Charter Schools Week is scheduled to be celebrated the week of May 4 through May 10, 2014: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the students, families, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for—

(A) their ongoing contributions to education;

(B) their impressive strides in closing the academic achievement gap in schools in the United States, particularly schools with some of the most disadvantaged students in both rural and urban communities; and

(C) improving and strengthening the public school system in the United States;

(2) supports the ideals and goals of the 15th annual National Charter Schools Week, a week-long celebration to be held the week of May 4 through May 10, 2014, in communities throughout the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities during National Charter Schools Week to demonstrate support for charter schools.

SENATE RESOLUTION 439—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 439

Whereas each year, the underground utility infrastructure of the United States, including pipelines, electric, gas, telecommunications, water, sewer, and cable television lines, is jeopardized by unintentional damage caused by those who fail to have underground lines located prior to digging;

Whereas some utility lines are buried only a few inches underground, making the lines easy to strike, even during shallow digging projects;

Whereas digging prior to locating underground utility lines often results in unintended consequences, such as service interruption, environmental damage, personal injury, and even death;

Whereas the month of April marks the beginning of the peak period during which excavation projects are carried out around the United States;

Whereas in 2002, Congress required the Department of Transportation and the Federal Communications Commission to establish a 3-digit, nationwide, toll-free number to be used by State ''One Call'' systems to provide information on underground utility lines;

Whereas in 2005, the Federal Communications Commission designated ''811'' as the nationwide ''One Call'' number for homeowners and excavators to use to obtain information on underground utility lines before conducting excavation activities;

Whereas ''One Call'' has helped reduce the number of digging damages caused by failure to call before digging from 48 percent in 2004 to 25 percent in 2012;

Whereas the 1,600 members of the Common Ground Alliance, who are dedicated to ensuring public safety, environmental protection, and the integrity of services, promote the national ''Call Before You Dig'' campaign to increase public awareness about the importance of homeowners and excavators calling 811 to find out the exact location of underground lines;

Whereas the Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011 affirmed and expanded the ''One Call'' program by eliminating exemptions given to local and State government agencies and their contractors on notifying ''One Call'' centers before digging; and

Whereas the Common Ground Alliance has designated April as ''National Safe Digging Month'' to increase awareness of safe digging practices across the United States and to celebrate the anniversary of 811, the national ''Call Before You Dig'' number: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month; and

(2) encourages all homeowners and excavators throughout the United States to call 811 before digging.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2985. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2986. Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2987. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2988. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2989. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2990. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2991. Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WALSH, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. LEE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. COATS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. COBURN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. VITTER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HELLER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. AYOTTE, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2992. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. HELLER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2993. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2994. Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2995. Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2996. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2997. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2998. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2999. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3000. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3001. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3002. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3003. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3004. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3005. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3006. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3007. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3008. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3009. Mr. UDALL, of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2985. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE VI—ENERGY FREEDOM AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY ACT OF 2014

Subtitle A—Short Title; etc.

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCE TO 1986 CODE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This title may be cited as the ''Energy Freedom and Economic Prosperity Act of 2014''.

(b) REFERENCE TO 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Subtitle B—Repeal of Energy Tax Subsidies

SEC. 611. EARLY TERMINATION OF CREDIT FOR QUALIFIED FUEL CELL MOTOR VEHICLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 30B is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Subparagraph (A) of section 24(b)(3) is amended by striking '', 30B''.

(2) Paragraph (2) of section 25B(g) is amended by striking '', 30B,''.

(3) Subsection (b) of section 38 is amended by striking paragraph (25).

(4) Subsection (a) of section 1016 is amended by striking paragraph (35) and by redesignating paragraphs (36) and (37) as paragraphs (35) and (36), respectively.

(5) Subsection (m) of section 6501 is amended by striking '', 30B(h)(9)''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart B of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to section 30B.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 612. EARLY TERMINATION OF NEW QUALIFIED PLUG-IN ELECTRIC DRIVE MOTOR VEHICLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 30D is repealed.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to vehicles placed in service after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 613. REPEAL OF CREDIT FOR ALCOHOL USED AS FUEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 40 is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Subsection (b) of section 38 is amended by striking paragraph (3).

(2) Subsection (c) of section 196 is amended by striking paragraph (3) and by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (14) as paragraphs (3) through (13), respectively.

(3) Paragraph (1) of section 4101(a) is amended by striking '', and every person producing cellulosic biofuel (as defined in section 40(b)(6)(E))''.

(4) Paragraph (1) of section 4104(a) is amended by striking '', 40''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to fuel sold or used after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 614. REPEAL OF ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 43 is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Subsection (b) of section 38 is amended by striking paragraph (6).

(2) Paragraph (4) of section 45Q(d) is amended by inserting ''(as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Energy Freedom and Economic Prosperity Act of 2014)'' after ''section 43(c)(2)''.

(3) Subsection (c) of section 196, as amended by sections 105 and 106 of this Act, is amended by striking paragraph (5) and by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (12) as paragraphs (5) through (11), respectively.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to section 43.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to costs paid or incurred after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 615. REPEAL OF CREDIT FOR PRODUCING OIL AND GAS FROM MARGINAL WELLS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 45I is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (b) of section 38 is amended by striking paragraph (19).

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to section 45I.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to production in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 616. TERMINATION OF CREDIT FOR PRODUCTION FROM ADVANCED NUCLEAR POWER FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) of section 45J(d)(1) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2021'' and inserting ''January 1, 2015''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 617. REPEAL OF CREDIT FOR CARBON DIOXIDE SEQUESTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 45Q is repealed.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to carbon dioxide captured after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 618. TERMINATION OF ENERGY CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 48 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) TERMINATION.—No credit shall be allowed under subsection (a) for any period after December 31, 2014.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 619. REPEAL OF QUALIFYING ADVANCED COAL PROJECT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 48A is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 46 is amended by striking paragraph (3) and by redesignating paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) as paragraphs (3), (4), and (5), respectively.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart E of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to section 48A.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 620. REPEAL OF QUALIFYING GASIFICATION PROJECT CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 48B is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 46, as amended by this Act, is amended by striking paragraph (3) and by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart E of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to section 48B.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 621. REPEAL OF QUALIFYING ADVANCED ENERGY PROJECT CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 48C is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 46, as amended by this Act, is amended by striking paragraph (3) and by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3).

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart E of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to section 48C.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2014.

Subtitle C—Reduction of Corporate Income Tax Rate

SEC. 631. CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATE REDUCED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe, in lieu of the rates of tax under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 11(b), section 1201(a), and paragraphs (1), (2), and (6) of section 1445(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, such rates of tax as the Secretary estimates would result in—

(1) a decrease in revenue to the Treasury for taxable years beginning during the 10-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, equal to

(2) the increase in revenue for such taxable years by reason of the amendments made by title I of this Act.

(b) MAINTENANCE OF GRADUATED RATES.—In prescribing the tax rates under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that each rate modified under such subsection is reduced by a uniform percentage.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The rates prescribed by the Secretary under subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning more than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2986. Mr. BLUNT (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. POINT OF ORDER AGAINST LEGISLATION THAT WOULD CREATE A TAX OR FEE ON CARBON EMISSIONS.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, motion, amendment, or conference report that includes a Federal tax or fee imposed on carbon emissions from any product or entity that is a direct or indirect source of the emissions.

(b) WAIVER AND APPEAL.—

(1) WAIVER.—Subsection (a) may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by an affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEAL.—An affirmative vote of three-fifths of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under subsection (a).

SA 2987. Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title IV, add the following:

Subtitle F—Energy Consumers Relief

SEC. 451. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Energy Consumers Relief Act of 2014''

SEC. 452. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) COVERED ENERGY-RELATED RULE.—The term ''covered energy-related rule'' means a rule of the Environmental Protection Agency that—

(A) regulates any aspect of the production, supply, distribution, or use of energy or provides for that regulation by States or other governmental entities; and

(B) is estimated by the Administrator or the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to impose direct costs and indirect costs, in the aggregate, of more than $1,000,000,000.

(3) DIRECT COSTS.—The term ''direct costs'' has the meaning given the term in chapter 8 of the document of the Environmental Protection Agency entitled ''Guidelines for Preparing Economic Analyses'' and dated December 17, 2010.

(4) INDIRECT COSTS.—The term ''indirect costs'' has the meaning given the term in chapter 8 of the document of the Environmental Protection Agency entitled ''Guidelines for Preparing Economic Analyses'' and dated December 17, 2010.

(5) RULE.—The term ''rule'' has the meaning given the term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 453. PROHIBITION AGAINST FINALIZING CERTAIN ENERGY-RELATED RULES THAT WILL CAUSE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE EFFECTS TO THE ECONOMY.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator shall not promulgate as final any covered energy-related rule if the Secretary determines under section 454(d) that the rule will result in significant adverse effects to the economy.

SEC. 454. REPORTS AND DETERMINATIONS PRIOR TO PROMULGATING AS FINAL CERTAIN ENERGY-RELATED RULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Before promulgating as final any covered energy-related rule, the Administrator shall carry out the activities described in subsections (c) through (d).

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—For each covered energy-related rule, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report (and transmit a copy to the Secretary) containing—

(1) a copy of the rule;

(2) a concise general statement relating to the rule;

(3) an estimate of the total costs of the rule, including the direct costs and indirect costs of the rule;

(4) an estimate of—

(A) the total benefits of the rule; and

(B) when those benefits are expected to be realized;

(5) a description of the modeling, the assumptions, and the limitations due to uncertainty, speculation, or lack of information associated with the estimates under paragraph (4);

(6) an estimate of the increases in energy prices, including potential increases in gasoline or electricity prices for consumers, that may result from implementation or enforcement of the rule; and

(7) a detailed description of the employment effects, including potential job losses and shifts in employment, that may result from implementation or enforcement of the rule.

(c) INITIAL DETERMINATION ON INCREASES AND IMPACTS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, shall prepare an independent analysis to determine whether the covered energy-related rule will cause—

(1) any increase in energy prices for consumers, including low-income households, small businesses, and manufacturers;

(2) any impact on fuel diversity of the electricity generation portfolio of the United States or on national, regional, or local electric reliability;

(3) any adverse effect on energy supply, distribution, or use due to the economic or technical infeasibility of implementing the rule; or

(4) any other adverse effect on energy supply, distribution, or use (including a shortfall in supply and increased use of foreign supplies).

(d) SUBSEQUENT DETERMINATION ON ADVERSE EFFECTS TO THE ECONOMY.—If the Secretary determines, under subsection (c), that the rule will result in an increase, impact, or effect described in that subsection, then the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Labor, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall—

(1) determine whether the rule will result in significant adverse effects to the economy, taking into consideration—

(A) the costs and benefits of the rule and limitations in calculating those costs and benefits due to uncertainty, speculation, or lack of information; and

(B) the positive and negative impacts of the rule on economic indicators, including those related to gross domestic product, unemployment, wages, consumer prices, and business and manufacturing activity; and

(2) publish the results of that determination in the Federal Register.

SA 2988. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. _____. CREDIT FOR CONVERSION OF HOME HEATING USING OIL FUEL TO USING NATURAL GAS OR BIOMASS FEEDSTOCKS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 25C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to nonbusiness energy property) is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (1), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (2) and inserting '', and'', and by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) the amount of the qualifying heating conversion expenditures paid or incurred by the taxpayer during such taxable year.''.

(b) DOLLAR LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) LIMITATION.—Subsection (b) of section 25C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) LIMITATION ON QUALIFYING HEATING CONVERSION EXPENDITURES.—The amount of the credit allowed under this section by reason of paragraph (3) of subsection (a) for any taxable year with respect to any taxpayer shall not exceed $5,000.''.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (1) of section 25C(b) of such Code is amended by inserting ''by reason of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)'' after ''The credit allowed under this section''.

(2) NO DOUBLE COUNTING.—Section 25C(e) of such Code (relating to special rules) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(4) NO DOUBLE COUNTING.—No amount taken into account for purposes of determining a credit under this section by reason of paragraph (3) of subsection (a) shall be taken into account for purposes of determining a credit under this section by reason of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a).''.

(c) QUALIFYING HEATING CONVERSION EXPENDITURES.—Section 25C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to residential energy property expenditures) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(h) QUALIFYING HEATING CONVERSION EXPENDITURES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualifying heating conversion expenditures' means expenditures made by the taxpayer for qualified heating conversion property which—

''(A) meets the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (d)(1), and

''(B) is used as a heating or cooling system on a building or structure located in a community (as determined under section 19(a)(1) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936) in which the average residential expenditure for home energy is more than 200 percent of the national average residential expenditure for home energy (as determined by the Energy Information Agency using the most recent data available).

''(2) AMOUNTS INCLUDED.—The term 'qualifying heating conversion expenditures' includes expenditures—

''(A) for labor costs properly allocable to the onsite preparation, assembly, or original installation of property described in paragraph (1), including fuel service connection installation costs specifically related to fuel service to the qualified energy property used in such conversion, and

''(B) the removal of the fuel oil equipment (including any storage tank) for such a building or structure.

''(3) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term does not include expenditures for soil cleanup.

''(4) QUALIFIED HEATING CONVERSION PROPERTY.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term 'qualified heating conversion property' means property which—

''(A) is placed in service before January 1, 2019,

''(B) meets the performance and quality standards described in subsection (d)(2)(B), and

''(C) is a product which qualifies under the Energy Star program and meets the requirements for such property under such program.''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (g) of section 25C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to termination) is amended by striking ''This section'' and inserting ''Paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a)''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2989. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title II, insert the following:

Subtitle E—Smart Water Resource Management Pilot Program

SEC. 241. SMART WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ''eligible entity'' means—

(A) a utility;

(B) a municipality;

(C) a water district; and

(D) any other authority that provides water, wastewater, or water reuse services.

(2) SMART WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ''smart water resource management pilot program'' or ''pilot program'' means the pilot program established under subsection (b).

(b) SMART WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish and carry out a smart water resource management pilot program in accordance with this section.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the smart water resource management pilot program is to award grants to eligible entities to demonstrate novel and innovative technology-based solutions that will—

(A) increase the energy and water efficiency of water, wastewater, and water reuse systems;

(B) improve water, wastewater, and water reuse systems to help communities across the United States make significant progress in conserving water, saving energy, and reducing costs; and

(C) support the implementation of innovative processes and the installation of advanced automated systems that provide real-time data on energy and water.

(3) PROJECT SELECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make competitive, merit-reviewed grants under the pilot program to not less than 3, but not more than 5, eligible entities.

(B) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting an eligible entity to receive a grant under the pilot program, the Secretary shall consider—

(i) energy and cost savings;

(ii) the novelty of the technology to be used;

(iii) the degree to which the project integrates next-generation sensors, software, analytics, and management tools;

(iv) the anticipated cost-effectiveness of the pilot project in terms of energy efficiency savings, water savings or reuse, and infrastructure costs averted;

(v) whether the technology can be deployed in a variety of geographic regions and the degree to which the technology can be implemented on a smaller or larger scale; and

(vi) whether the project will be completed in 5 years or less.

(C) APPLICATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), an eligible entity seeking a grant under the pilot program shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(ii) CONTENTS.—An application under clause (i) shall, at a minimum, include—

(I) a description of the project;

(II) a description of the technology to be used in the project;

(III) the anticipated results, including energy and water savings, of the project;

(IV) a comprehensive budget for the project;

(V) the names of the project lead organization and any partners;

(VI) the number of users to be served by the project; and

(VII) any other information that the Secretary determines to be necessary to complete the review and selection of a grant recipient.

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall select grant recipients under this section.

(B) EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary shall annually carry out an evaluation of each project for which a grant is provided under this section that—

(i) evaluates the progress and impact of the project; and

(ii) assesses the degree to which the project is meeting the goals of the pilot program.

(C) TECHNICAL AND POLICY ASSISTANCE.—On the request of a grant recipient, the Secretary shall provide technical and policy assistance.

(D) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall make available to the public—

(i) a copy of each evaluation carried out under subparagraph (B); and

(ii) a description of any best practices identified by the Secretary as a result of those evaluations.

(E) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of each evaluation carried out under subparagraph (B).

(c) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use not less than $7,500,000 of amounts made available to the Secretary to carry out this section.

(2) PRIORITIZATION.—In funding activities under this section, the Secretary shall prioritize funding in the following manner:

(A) Any unobligated amounts made available to the Secretary to carry out energy efficiency and renewable energy activities.

(B) Any unobligated amounts (other than those described in subparagraph (A)) made available to the Secretary.

SA 2990. Mr. BARRASSO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

DIVISION B—INDIAN TRIBAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2014''.

TITLE XXI—INDIAN TRIBAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT AMENDMENTS

SEC. 2101. INDIAN TRIBAL ENERGY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2602(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) consult with each applicable Indian tribe before adopting or approving a well spacing program or plan applicable to the energy resources of that Indian tribe or the members of that Indian tribe.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) PLANNING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program established by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide technical assistance to interested Indian tribes to develop energy plans, including—

''(i) plans for electrification;

''(ii) plans for oil and gas permitting, renewable energy permitting, energy efficiency, electricity generation, transmission planning, water planning, and other planning relating to energy issues;

''(iii) plans for the development of energy resources and to ensure the protection of natural, historic, and cultural resources; and

''(iv) any other plans that would assist an Indian tribe in the development or use of energy resources.

''(B) COOPERATION.—In establishing the program under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall work in cooperation with the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs of the Department of Energy.''.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY INDIAN ENERGY EDUCATION PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 2602(b)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting '', intertribal organization,'' after ''Indian tribe'';

(2) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) and (D) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) activities to increase the capacity of Indian tribes to manage energy development and energy efficiency programs;''.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM.—Section 2602(c) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''or a tribal energy development organization'' after ''Indian tribe'';

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''guarantee'' and inserting ''guaranteed'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or'';

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) a tribal energy development organization, from funds of the tribal energy development organization.''; and

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking ''The Secretary of Energy may'' and inserting ''Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2014, the Secretary of Energy shall''.

SEC. 2102. INDIAN TRIBAL ENERGY RESOURCE REGULATION.

Section 2603(c) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3503(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''on the request of an Indian tribe, the Indian tribe'' and inserting ''on the request of an Indian tribe or a tribal energy development organization, the Indian tribe or tribal energy development organization''; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting ''or tribal energy development organization'' after ''Indian tribe''.

SEC. 2103. TRIBAL ENERGY RESOURCE AGREEMENTS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 2604 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3504) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

''(i) an electric production, generation, transmission, or distribution facility (including a facility that produces electricity from renewable energy resources) located on tribal land; or''; and

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by inserting '', at least a portion of which have been'' after ''energy resources'';

(bb) by inserting ''or produced from'' after ''developed on''; and

(cc) by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end and inserting ''or''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) pooling, unitization, or communitization of the energy mineral resources of the Indian tribe located on tribal land with any other energy mineral resource (including energy mineral resources owned by the Indian tribe or an individual Indian in fee, trust, or restricted status or by any other persons or entities) if the owner of the resources has consented or consents to the pooling, unitization, or communitization of the other resources under any lease or agreement; and''; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

''(2) a lease or business agreement described in paragraph (1) shall not require review by, or the approval of, the Secretary under section 2103 of the Revised Statutes (25 U.S.C. 81), or any other provision of law, if the lease or business agreement—

''(A) was executed—

''(i) in accordance with the requirements of a tribal energy resource agreement in effect under subsection (e) (including the periodic review and evaluation of the activities of the Indian tribe under the agreement, to be conducted pursuant to subparagraphs (D) and (E) of subsection (e)(2)); or

''(ii) by the Indian tribe and a tribal energy development organization—

''(I) for which the Indian tribe has obtained certification pursuant to subsection (h); and

''(II) the majority of the interest in which is, and continues to be throughout the full term or renewal term (if any) of the lease or business agreement, owned and controlled by the Indian tribe (or the Indian tribe and 1 or more other Indian tribes); and

''(B) has a term that does not exceed—

''(i) 30 years; or

''(ii) in the case of a lease for the production of oil resources, gas resources, or both, 10 years and as long thereafter as oil or gas is produced in paying quantities.'';

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—An Indian tribe may grant a right-of-way over tribal land without review or approval by the Secretary if the right-of-way—

''(1) serves—

''(A) an electric production, generation, transmission, or distribution facility (including a facility that produces electricity from renewable energy resources) located on tribal land;

''(B) a facility located on tribal land that extracts, produces, processes, or refines energy resources; or

''(C) the purposes, or facilitates in carrying out the purposes, of any lease or agreement entered into for energy resource development on tribal land; and

''(2) was executed—

''(A) in accordance with the requirements of a tribal energy resource agreement in effect under subsection (e) (including the periodic review and evaluation of the activities of the Indian tribe under the agreement, to be conducted pursuant to subparagraphs (D) and (E) of subsection (e)(2)); or

''(B) by the Indian tribe and a tribal energy development organization—

''(i) for which the Indian tribe has obtained certification pursuant to subsection (h); and

''(ii) the majority of the interest in which is, and continues to be throughout the full

term or renewal term (if any) of the right-of-way, owned and controlled by the Indian tribe (or the Indian tribe and 1 or more other Indian tribes); and

''(3) has a term that does not exceed 30 years.'';

(3) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

''(d) VALIDITY.—No lease or business agreement entered into, or right-of-way granted, pursuant to this section shall be valid unless the lease, business agreement, or right-of-way is authorized by subsection (a) or (b).'';

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''(2)(A)'' and all that follows through the end of subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(2) PROCEDURE.—

''(A) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—On the date that is 271 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a tribal energy resource agreement from an Indian tribe under paragraph (1), the tribal energy resource agreement shall take effect, unless the Secretary disapproves the tribal energy resource agreement under subparagraph (B).

''(ii) REVISED TRIBAL ENERGY RESOURCE AGREEMENT.—On the date that is 91 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a revised tribal energy resource agreement from an Indian tribe under paragraph (4)(B), the revised tribal energy resource agreement shall take effect, unless the Secretary disapproves the revised tribal energy resource agreement under subparagraph (B).'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking ''(B)'' and all that follows through ''if—'' and inserting the following:

''(B) DISAPPROVAL.—The Secretary shall disapprove a tribal energy resource agreement submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) or (4)(B) only if—'';

(II) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

''(i) the Secretary determines that the Indian tribe has not demonstrated that the Indian tribe has sufficient capacity to regulate the development of the specific 1 or more energy resources identified for development under the tribal energy resource agreement submitted by the Indian tribe;'';

(III) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv) and indenting appropriately;

(IV) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) a provision of the tribal energy resource agreement would violate applicable Federal law (including regulations) or a treaty applicable to the Indian tribe;

''(iii) the tribal energy resource agreement does not include 1 or more provisions required under subparagraph (D); or''; and

(V) in clause (iv) (as redesignated by subclause (III))—

(aa) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''includes'' and all that follows through ''section—'' and inserting ''does not include provisions that, with respect to any lease, business agreement, or right-of-way to which the tribal energy resource agreement applies—''; and

(bb) in subclause (XVI)(bb), by striking ''or tribal'';

(iii) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''the approval of'' after ''with respect to'';

(II) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) the identification of mitigation measures, if any, that, in the discretion of the Indian tribe, the Indian tribe might propose for incorporation into the lease, business agreement, or right-of-way;'';

(III) in clause (iii)(I), by striking ''proposed action'' and inserting ''approval of the lease, business agreement, or right-of-way'';

(IV) in clause (iv), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(V) in clause (v), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(VI) by adding at the end the following:

''(vi) the identification of specific classes or categories of actions, if any, determined by the Indian tribe not to have significant environmental effects.'';

(iv) in subparagraph (D)(ii), by striking ''subparagraph (B)(iii)(XVI)'' and inserting ''subparagraph (B)(iv)(XV)''; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) A tribal energy resource agreement that takes effect pursuant to this subsection shall remain in effect to the extent any provision of the tribal energy resource agreement is consistent with applicable Federal law (including regulations), unless the tribal energy resource agreement is—

''(i) rescinded by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (7)(D)(iii)(II); or

''(ii) voluntarily rescinded by the Indian tribe pursuant to the regulations promulgated under paragraph (8)(B) (or successor regulations).

''(G)(i) The Secretary shall make a capacity determination under subparagraph (B)(i) not later than 120 days after the date on which the Indian tribe submits to the Secretary the tribal energy resource agreement of the Indian tribe pursuant to paragraph (1), unless the Secretary and the Indian tribe mutually agree to an extension of the time period for making the determination.

''(ii) Any determination that the Indian tribe lacks the requisite capacity shall be treated as a disapproval under paragraph (4) and, not later than 10 days after the date of the determination, the Secretary shall provide to the Indian tribe—

''(I) a detailed, written explanation of each reason for the determination; and

''(II) a description of the steps that the Indian tribe should take to demonstrate sufficient capacity.

''(H) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, an Indian tribe shall be considered to have demonstrated sufficient capacity under subparagraph (B)(i) to regulate the development of the specific 1 or more energy resources of the Indian tribe identified for development under the tribal energy resource agreement submitted by the Indian tribe pursuant to paragraph (1) if—

''(i) the Secretary determines that—

''(I) the Indian tribe has carried out a contract or compact under title I or IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.); and

''(II) for a period of not less than 3 consecutive years ending on the date on which the Indian tribe submits the tribal energy resource agreement of the Indian tribe pursuant to paragraph (1) or (4)(B), the contract or compact—

''(aa) has been carried out by the Indian tribe without material audit exceptions (or without any material audit exceptions that were not corrected within the 3-year period); and

''(bb) has included programs or activities relating to the management of tribal land; or

''(ii) the Secretary fails to make the determination within the time allowed under subparagraph (G)(i) (including any extension of time agreed to under that subparagraph).'';

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking ''date of disapproval'' and all that follows through the end of subparagraph (C) and inserting the following: ''date of disapproval, provide the Indian tribe with—

''(A) a detailed, written explanation of—

''(i) each reason for the disapproval; and

''(ii) the revisions or changes to the tribal energy resource agreement necessary to address each reason; and

''(B) an opportunity to revise and resubmit the tribal energy resource agreement.'';

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking ''(B) Subject to'' and inserting the following:

''(B) Subject only to''; and

(II) by striking ''subparagraph (D)'' and inserting ''subparagraphs (C) and (D)'';

(ii) in subparagraph (C), in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''to perform the obligations of the Secretary under this section and'' before ''to ensure''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (D), by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) Nothing in this section absolves, limits, or otherwise affects the liability, if any, of the United States for any—

''(I) term of any lease, business agreement, or right-of-way under this section that is not a negotiated term; or

''(II) losses that are not the result of a negotiated term, including losses resulting from the failure of the Secretary to perform an obligation of the Secretary under this section.''; and

(D) in paragraph (7)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''has demonstrated'' and inserting ''the Secretary determines has demonstrated with substantial evidence'';

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''any tribal remedy'' and inserting ''all remedies (if any) provided under the laws of the Indian tribe'';

(iii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) in clause (i), by striking ''determine'' and all that follows through the end of the clause and inserting the following: ''determine—

''(I) whether the petitioner is an interested party; and

''(II) if the petitioner is an interested party, whether the Indian tribe is not in compliance with the tribal energy resource agreement as alleged in the petition.'';

(II) in clause (ii), by striking ''determination'' and inserting ''determinations''; and

(III) in clause (iii), in the matter preceding subclause (I) by striking ''agreement'' the first place it appears and all that follows through '', including'' and inserting ''agreement pursuant to clause (i), the Secretary shall only take such action as the Secretary determines necessary to address the claims of noncompliance made in the petition, including'';

(iv) in subparagraph (E)(i), by striking ''the manner in which'' and inserting '', with respect to each claim made in the petition, how''; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) Notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, the Secretary shall dismiss any petition from an interested party that has agreed with the Indian tribe to a resolution of the claims presented in the petition of that party.'';

(5) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (j); and

(6) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN LIEU OF ACTIVITIES BY THE SECRETARY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any amounts that the Secretary would otherwise expend to operate or carry out any program, function, service, or activity (or any portion of a program, function, service, or activity) of the Department that, as a result of an Indian tribe carrying out activities under a tribal energy resource agreement, the Secretary does not expend, the Secretary shall, at the request of

the Indian tribe, make available to the Indian tribe in accordance with this subsection.

''(2) ANNUAL FUNDING AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary shall make the amounts described in paragraph (1) available to an Indian tribe through an annual written funding agreement that is negotiated and entered into with the Indian tribe that is separate from the tribal energy resource agreement.

''(3) EFFECT OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1)—

''(A) the provision of amounts to an Indian tribe under this subsection is subject to the availability of appropriations; and

''(B) the Secretary shall not be required to reduce amounts for programs, functions, services, or activities that serve any other Indian tribe to make amounts available to an Indian tribe under this subsection.

''(4) DETERMINATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall calculate the amounts under paragraph (1) in accordance with the regulations adopted under section 2103(b) of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2014.

''(B) APPLICABILITY.—The effective date or implementation of a tribal energy resource agreement under this section shall not be delayed or otherwise affected by—

''(i) a delay in the promulgation of regulations under section 2103(b) of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2014;

''(ii) the period of time needed by the Secretary to make the calculation required under paragraph (1); or

''(iii) the adoption of a funding agreement under paragraph (2).

''(h) CERTIFICATION OF TRIBAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which an Indian tribe submits an application for certification of a tribal energy development organization in accordance with regulations promulgated under section 2103(b) of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2014, the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the application.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall approve an application for certification if—

''(A)(i) the Indian tribe has carried out a contract or compact under title I or IV of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.); and

''(ii) for a period of not less than 3 consecutive years ending on the date on which the Indian tribe submits the application, the contract or compact—

''(I) has been carried out by the Indian tribe without material audit exceptions (or without any material audit exceptions that were not corrected within the 3-year period); and

''(II) has included programs or activities relating to the management of tribal land; and

''(B)(i) the tribal energy development organization is organized under the laws of the Indian tribe and subject to the jurisdiction and authority of the Indian tribe;

''(ii) the majority of the interest in the tribal energy development organization is owned and controlled by the Indian tribe (or the Indian tribe and 1 or more other Indian tribes); and

''(iii) the organizing document of the tribal energy development organization requires that the Indian tribe (or the Indian tribe and 1 or more other Indian tribes) own and control at all times a majority of the interest in the tribal energy development organization.

''(3) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—If the Secretary approves an application for certification pursuant to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall, not more than 10 days after making the determination—

''(A) issue a certification stating that—

''(i) the tribal energy development organization is organized under the laws of the Indian tribe and subject to the jurisdiction and authority of the Indian tribe;

''(ii) the majority of the interest in the tribal energy development organization is owned and controlled by the Indian tribe (or the Indian tribe and 1 or more other Indian tribes);

''(iii) the organizing document of the tribal energy development organization requires that the Indian tribe (or the Indian tribe and 1 or more other Indian tribes) own and control at all times a majority of the interest in the tribal energy development organization; and

''(iv) the certification is issued pursuant this subsection;

''(B) deliver a copy of the certification to the Indian tribe; and

''(C) publish the certification in the Federal Register.

''(i) SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY.—Nothing in this section waives the sovereign immunity of an Indian tribe.''.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2014, the Secretary shall promulgate or update any regulations that are necessary to implement this section, including provisions to implement—

(1) section 2604(g) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3504(g)) including the manner in which the Secretary, at the request of an Indian tribe, shall—

(A) identify the programs, functions, services, and activities (or any portions of programs, functions, services, or activities) that the Secretary will not have to operate or carry out as a result of the Indian tribe carrying out activities under a tribal energy resource agreement;

(B) identify the amounts that the Secretary would have otherwise expended to operate or carry out each program, function, service, and activity (or any portion of a program, function, service, or activity) identified pursuant to subparagraph (A); and

(C) provide to the Indian tribe a list of the programs, functions, services, and activities (or any portions of programs, functions, services, or activities) identified pursuant subparagraph (A) and the amounts associated with each program, function, service, and activity (or any portion of a program, function, service, or activity) identified pursuant to subparagraph (B); and

(2) section 2604(h) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3504(h)), including the process to be followed by, and any applicable criteria and documentation required for, an Indian tribe to request and obtain the certification described in that section.

SEC. 2104. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS.

Section 2602(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (6) as paragraphs (4) through (7), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESOURCES.—In addition to providing grants to Indian tribes under this subsection, the Secretary shall collaborate with the Directors of the National Laboratories in making the full array of technical and scientific resources of the Department of Energy available for tribal energy activities and projects.''.

SEC. 2105. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) DEFINITION OF TRIBAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION.—Section 2601 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501) is amended by striking paragraph (11) and inserting the following:

''(11) The term 'tribal energy development organization' means—

''(A) any enterprise, partnership, consortium, corporation, or other type of business organization that is engaged in the development of energy resources and is wholly owned by an Indian tribe (including an organization incorporated pursuant to section 17 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 (25 U.S.C. 477) or section 3 of the Act of June 26, 1936 (25 U.S.C. 503) (commonly known as the 'Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act')); or

''(B) any organization of 2 or more entities, at least 1 of which is an Indian tribe, that has the written consent of the governing bodies of all Indian tribes participating in the organization to apply for a grant, loan, or other assistance under section 2602 or to enter into a lease or business agreement with, or acquire a right-of-way from, an Indian tribe pursuant to subsection (a)(2)(A)(ii) or (b)(2)(B) of section 2604.''.

(b) INDIAN TRIBAL ENERGY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT.—Section 2602 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3502) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''tribal energy resource development organizations'' and inserting ''tribal energy development organizations''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''tribal energy resource development organizations'' each place it appears and inserting ''tribal energy development organizations''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking ''tribal energy resource development organization'' and inserting ''tribal energy development organization''.

(c) WIND AND HYDROPOWER FEASIBILITY STUDY.—Section 2606(c)(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3506(c)(3)) is amended by striking ''energy resource development'' and inserting ''energy development''.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2604(e) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3504(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking ''(1) On the date'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—On the date''; and

(B) by striking ''for approval'';

(2) in paragraph (2)(B)(iv) (as redesignated by section 2103(a)(4)(A)(ii)(III))—

(A) in subclause (XIV), by inserting ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(B) by striking subclause (XV); and

(C) by redesignating subclause (XVI) as subclause (XV);

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking ''(3) The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(3) NOTICE AND COMMENT; SECRETARIAL REVIEW.—The Secretary''; and

(B) by striking ''for approval'';

(4) in paragraph (4), by striking ''(4) If the Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(4) ACTION IN CASE OF DISAPPROVAL.—If the Secretary'';

(5) in paragraph (5)—

(A) by striking ''(5) If an Indian tribe'' and inserting the following:

''(5) PROVISION OF DOCUMENTS TO SECRETARY.—If an Indian tribe''; and

(B) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''approved'' and inserting ''in effect'';

(6) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by striking ''(6)(A) In carrying out'' and inserting the following:

''(6) SECRETARIAL OBLIGATIONS AND EFFECT OF SECTION.—

''(A) In carrying out'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by indenting clauses (i) and (ii) appropriately;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''approved'' and inserting ''in effect''; and

(D) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking ''an approved tribal energy resource agreement'' and inserting ''a tribal energy resource agreement in effect under this section''; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking ''approved by the Secretary'' and inserting ''in effect''; and

(7) in paragraph (7)—

(A) by striking ''(7)(A) In this paragraph'' and inserting the following:

''(7) PETITIONS BY INTERESTED PARTIES.—

''(A) In this paragraph'';

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''approved by the Secretary'' and inserting ''in effect'';

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''approved by the Secretary'' and inserting ''in effect''; and

(D) in subparagraph (D)(iii)—

(i) in subclause (I), by striking ''approved''; and

(ii) in subclause (II)—

(I) by striking ''approval of'' in the first place it appears; and

(II) by striking ''subsection (a) or (b)'' and inserting ''subsection (a)(2)(A)(i) or (b)(2)(A)''.

TITLE XXII—MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS

SEC. 2201. ISSUANCE OF PRELIMINARY PERMITS OR LICENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(a) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 800(a)) is amended by striking ''States and municipalities'' and inserting ''States, Indian tribes, and municipalities''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall not affect—

(1) any preliminary permit or original license issued before the date of enactment of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2014; or

(2) an application for an original license, if the Commission has issued a notice accepting that application for filing pursuant to section 4.32(d) of title 18, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), before the date of enactment of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2014.

(c) DEFINITION OF INDIAN TRIBE.—For purposes of section 7(a) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 800(a)) (as amended by subsection (a)), the term ''Indian tribe'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450b).

SEC. 2202. TRIBAL BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to establish a biomass demonstration project for federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaska Native corporations to promote biomass energy production.

(b) TRIBAL BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—The Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–278; 118 Stat. 868) is amended—

(1) in section 2(a), by striking ''In this section'' and inserting ''In this Act''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 3. TRIBAL BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

''(a) STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS OR SIMILAR AGREEMENTS.—For each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019, the Secretary shall enter into stewardship contracts or similar agreements (excluding direct service contracts) with Indian tribes to carry out demonstration projects to promote biomass energy production (including biofuel, heat, and electricity generation) on Indian forest land and in nearby communities by providing reliable supplies of woody biomass from Federal land.

''(b) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—In each fiscal year for which projects are authorized, at least 4 new demonstration projects that meet the eligibility criteria described in subsection (c) shall be carried out under contracts or agreements described in subsection (a).

''(c) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—To be eligible to enter into a contract or agreement under this section, an Indian tribe shall submit to the Secretary an application—

''(1) containing such information as the Secretary may require; and

''(2) that includes a description of—

''(A) the Indian forest land or rangeland under the jurisdiction of the Indian tribe; and

''(B) the demonstration project proposed to be carried out by the Indian tribe.

''(d) SELECTION.—In evaluating the applications submitted under subsection (c), the Secretary shall—

''(1) take into consideration—

''(A) the factors set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 2(e); and

''(B) whether a proposed project would—

''(i) increase the availability or reliability of local or regional energy;

''(ii) enhance the economic development of the Indian tribe;

''(iii) result in or improve the connection of electric power transmission facilities serving the Indian tribe with other electric transmission facilities;

''(iv) improve the forest health or watersheds of Federal land or Indian forest land or rangeland;

''(v) demonstrate new investments in infrastructure; or

''(vi) otherwise promote the use of woody biomass; and

''(2) exclude from consideration any merchantable logs that have been identified by the Secretary for commercial sale.

''(e) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall—

''(1) ensure that the criteria described in subsection (c) are publicly available by not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this section; and

''(2) to the maximum extent practicable, consult with Indian tribes and appropriate intertribal organizations likely to be affected in developing the application and otherwise carrying out this section.

''(f) REPORT.—Not later than September 20, 2017, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes, with respect to the reporting period—

''(1) each individual tribal application received under this section; and

''(2) each contract and agreement entered into pursuant to this section.

''(g) INCORPORATION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS.—In carrying out a contract or agreement under this section, on receipt of a request from an Indian tribe, the Secretary shall incorporate into the contract or agreement, to the maximum extent practicable, management plans (including forest management and integrated resource management plans) in effect on the Indian forest land or rangeland of the respective Indian tribe.

''(h) TERM.—A contract or agreement entered into under this section—

''(1) shall be for a term of not more than 20 years; and

''(2) may be renewed in accordance with this section for not more than an additional 10 years.''.

(c) ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION BIOMASS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION.—The term ''Alaska Native corporation'' has the meaning given the term ''Native Corporation'' in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602).

(B) FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''Federal land'' means—

(i) land of the National Forest System (as defined in section 11(a) of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))) administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(ii) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)), the surface of which is administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(C) FOREST LAND.—The term ''forest land'' means land that—

(i) is conveyed to an Alaska Native corporation pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.); and

(ii)(I) is considered chiefly valuable for the production of forest products or to maintain watershed or other land values enhanced by a forest cover (including commercial and noncommercial timberland and woodland), regardless of whether a formal inspection and land classification action has been taken; or

(II) formerly had a forest or vegetative cover that is capable of restoration.

(D) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means—

(i) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service; and

(ii) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) AGREEMENTS.—For each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019, the Secretary shall enter into a stewardship contract or similar agreement (excluding a direct service contract) with 1 or more Alaska Native corporations to carry out a demonstration project to promote biomass energy production (including biofuel, heat, and electricity generation) on forest land of the Alaska Native corporations and in nearby communities by providing reliable supplies of woody biomass from Federal land.

(3) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—In each fiscal year for which projects are authorized, at least 1 new demonstration project that meets the eligibility criteria described in paragraph (4) shall be carried out under contracts or agreements described in paragraph (2).

(4) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.—To be eligible to enter into a contract or agreement under this subsection, an Alaska Native corporation shall submit to the Secretary an application—

(A) containing such information as the Secretary may require; and

(B) that includes a description of—

(i) the forest land or rangeland under the jurisdiction of the Alaska Native corporation; and

(ii) the demonstration project proposed to be carried out by the Alaska Native corporation.

(5) SELECTION.—In evaluating the applications submitted under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall—

(A) take into consideration whether a proposed project would—

(i) increase the availability or reliability of local or regional energy;

(ii) enhance the economic development of the Alaska Native corporation;

(iii) result in or improve the connection of electric power transmission facilities serving the Alaska Native corporation with other electric transmission facilities;

(iv) improve the forest health or watersheds of Federal land or Alaska Native corporation forest land or rangeland;

(v) demonstrate new investments in infrastructure; or

(vi) otherwise promote the use of woody biomass; and

(B) exclude from consideration any merchantable logs that have been identified by the Secretary for commercial sale.

(6) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall—

(A) ensure that the criteria described in paragraph (4) are publicly available by not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this subsection; and

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, consult with Alaska Native corporations and appropriate Alaska Native organizations likely to be affected in developing the application and otherwise carrying out this subsection.

(7) REPORT.—Not later than September 20, 2017, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes, with respect to the reporting period—

(A) each individual application received under this subsection; and

(B) each contract and agreement entered into pursuant to this subsection.

(8) TERM.—A contract or agreement entered into under this subsection—

(A) shall be for a term of not more than 20 years; and

(B) may be renewed in accordance with this subsection for not more than an additional 10 years.

SEC. 2203. WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM.

Section 413(d) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6863(d)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) RESERVATION OF AMOUNTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B) and notwithstanding any other provision of this part, the Secretary shall reserve from amounts that would otherwise be allocated to a State under this part not less than 100 percent, but not more than 150 percent, of an amount which bears the same proportion to the allocation of that State for the applicable fiscal year as the population of all low-income members of an Indian tribe in that State bears to the population of all low-income individuals in that State.

''(B) RESTRICTIONS.—Subparagraph (A) shall apply only if—

''(i) the tribal organization serving the low-income members of the applicable Indian tribe requests that the Secretary make a grant directly; and

''(ii) the Secretary determines that the low-income members of the applicable Indian tribe would be equally or better served by making a grant directly than a grant made to the State in which the low-income members reside.'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''The sums'' and inserting ''ADMINISTRATION.—The amounts'';

(B) by striking ''on the basis of his determination'';

(C) by striking ''individuals for whom such a determination has been made'' and inserting ''low-income members of the Indian tribe''; and

(D) by striking ''he'' and inserting ''the Secretary''; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking ''In order'' and inserting ''APPLICATION.—In order''.

SEC. 2204. APPRAISALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XXVI of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 2607. APPRAISALS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—For any transaction that requires approval of the Secretary and involves mineral or energy resources held in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian tribe or by an Indian tribe subject to Federal restrictions against alienation, any appraisal relating to fair market value of those resources required to be prepared under applicable law may be prepared by—

''(1) the Secretary;

''(2) the affected Indian tribe; or

''(3) a certified, third-party appraiser pursuant to a contract with the Indian tribe.

''(b) SECRETARIAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—Not later than 45 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an appraisal prepared by or for an Indian tribe under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

''(1) review the appraisal; and

''(2) approve the appraisal unless the Secretary determines that the appraisal fails to meet the standards set forth in regulations promulgated under subsection (d).

''(c) NOTICE OF DISAPPROVAL.—If the Secretary determines that an appraisal submitted for approval under subsection (b) should be disapproved, the Secretary shall give written notice of the disapproval to the Indian tribe and a description of—

''(1) each reason for the disapproval; and

''(2) how the appraisal should be corrected or otherwise cured to meet the applicable standards set forth in the regulations promulgated under subsection (d).

''(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section, including standards the Secretary shall use for approving or disapproving the appraisal described in subsection (a).''.

SEC. 2205. LEASES OF RESTRICTED LANDS FOR NAVAJO NATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (e)(1) of the first section of the Act of August 9, 1955 (commonly known as the ''Long-Term Leasing Act'') (25 U.S.C. 415(e)(1)), is amended—

(1) by striking '', except a lease for'' and inserting '', including a lease for'';

(2) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) in the case of a business or agricultural lease, 99 years;'';

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) in the case of a lease for the exploration, development, or extraction of any mineral resource (including geothermal resources), 25 years, except that—

''(i) any such lease may include an option to renew for 1 additional term of not to exceed 25 years; and

''(ii) any such lease for the exploration, development, or extraction of an oil or gas resource shall be for a term of not to exceed 10 years, plus such additional period as the Navajo Nation determines to be appropriate in any case in which an oil or gas resource is produced in a paying quantity.''.

(b) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit to Congress a report describing the progress made in carrying out the amendment made by subsection (a)(4).

SA 2991. Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WALSH, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TESTER, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ENZI, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. LEE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. COATS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. COBURN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. CORKER, Mr. HATCH, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. VITTER, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BURR, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HELLER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. AYOTTE, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. KEYSTONE XL APPROVAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P. may construct, connect, operate, and maintain the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in the application filed on May 4, 2012, by TransCanada Corporation to the Department of State (including any subsequent revision to the pipeline route within the State of Nebraska required or authorized by the State of Nebraska).

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement issued by the Secretary of State in January 2014, regarding the pipeline referred to in subsection (a), and the environmental analysis, consultation, and review described in that document (including appendices) shall be considered to fully satisfy—

(1) all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(2) any other provision of law that requires Federal agency consultation or review (including the consultation or review required under section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536(a))) with respect to the pipeline and facilities referred to in subsection (a).

(c) PERMITS.—Any Federal permit or authorization issued before the date of enactment of this Act for the pipeline and cross-border facilities referred to in subsection (a) shall remain in effect.

(d) FEDERAL JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Any legal challenge to a Federal agency action regarding the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in subsection (a), and the related facilities in the United States, that are approved by this Act, and any permit, right-of-way, or other action taken to construct or complete the project pursuant to Federal law, shall only be subject to judicial review on direct appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

(e) PRIVATE PROPERTY SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this Act alters any Federal, State, or local process or condition in effect on the date of enactment of this Act that is necessary to secure access from an owner of private property to construct the pipeline and cross-border facilities described in subsection (a).

SA 2992. Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. HELLER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title IV, add the following:

Subtitle F—Public Land Renewable Energy Development

SEC. 451. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2014''.

PART I—GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

SEC. 461. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF GEOTHERMAL STEAM ACT OF 1970.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 234(a) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15873(a)) is amended by striking ''in the first 5 fiscal years beginning after the date of enactment of this Act'' and inserting ''through fiscal year 2020''.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—Section 234(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15873(b)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Amounts'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) AUTHORIZATION.—Effective for fiscal year 2015 and each fiscal year thereafter, amounts deposited under subsection (a) shall be available to the Secretary of the Interior for expenditure, subject to appropriation and without fiscal year limitation, to implement the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) and this Act.''.

PART II—DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY ON PUBLIC LAND

SEC. 471. DEFINITIONS.

In this part:

(1) COVERED LAND.—The term ''covered land'' means land that is—

(A)(i) public land administered by the Secretary; or

(ii) National Forest System land administered by the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(B) not excluded from the development of solar or wind energy under—

(i) a land use plan established under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

(ii) a land use plan established under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.); or

(iii) other law.

(2) PILOT PROGRAM.—The term ''pilot program'' means the wind and solar leasing pilot program established under section 473(a).

(3) PUBLIC LAND.—The term ''public land'' has the meaning given the term ''public lands'' in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702).

(4) SECRETARIES.—The term ''Secretaries'' means—

(A) in the case of public land administered by the Secretary, the Secretary; and

(B) in the case of National Forest System land administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Agriculture.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 472. PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS AND LAND USE PLANNING.

(a) NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND.—As soon as practicable but not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) prepare and publish in the Federal Register a notice of intent to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) to analyze the potential impacts of—

(A) a program to develop solar and wind energy on National Forest System land administered by the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(B) any necessary amendments to land use plans for the land; and

(2) amend any land use plans as appropriate to provide for the development of renewable energy in areas considered appropriate by the Secretary of Agriculture immediately on completion of the programmatic environmental impact statement.

(b) EFFECT ON PROCESSING APPLICATIONS.—The requirement for completion of programmatic environmental impact statements under this section shall not result in any delay in processing or approving applications for wind or solar development on National Forest System land.

(c) MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall conduct a study, and prepare a report, for States that have not completed the analysis that—

(A) identifies locations on land withdrawn from the public domain and reserved for military purposes that—

(i) exhibit a high potential for solar, wind, geothermal, or other renewable energy production;

(ii) are disturbed or otherwise have comparatively low value for other resources; and

(iii) could be developed for renewable energy production in a manner consistent with all present and reasonably foreseeable military training and operational missions and research, development, testing, and evaluation requirements; and

(B) describes the administration of public land withdrawn for military purposes for the development of commercial-scale renewable energy projects, including the legal authorities governing authorization for that use.

(2) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS.—Not later than 1 year after the completion of the study required by paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, shall prepare and publish in the Federal Register a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact analysis document to support a program to develop renewable energy on withdrawn military land identified in the study as suitable for the production.

(3) REPORTS.—On completion of the report, the Secretary and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly submit the report required by paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 473. DEVELOPMENT OF SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY ON PUBLIC LAND.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a wind and solar leasing pilot program on covered land administered by the Secretary.

(2) SELECTION OF SITES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date the pilot program is established under this subsection, the Secretary shall (taking into consideration the multiple resource values of the land) select 2 sites that are appropriate for the development of a solar energy project, and 2 sites that are appropriate for the development of a wind energy project, on covered land administered by the Secretary as part of the pilot program.

(B) SITE SELECTION.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall seek to select sites—

(i) for which there is likely to be a high level of industry interest;

(ii) that have a comparatively low value for other resources; and

(iii) that are representative of sites on which solar or wind energy is likely to be developed on covered land.

(C) INELIGIBLE SITES.—The Secretary shall not select as part of the pilot program any site for which a notice of intent has been issued.

(3) QUALIFICATIONS.—Prior to any lease sale, the Secretary shall establish qualifications for bidders that ensure bidders—

(A) are able to expeditiously develop a wind or solar energy project on the site for lease;

(B) possess—

(i) financial resources necessary to complete a project;

(ii) knowledge of the applicable technology; and

(iii) such other qualifications as are determined appropriate by the Secretary; and

(C) meet the eligibility requirements for leasing under the first section of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181).

(4) LEASE SALES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D)(ii), not later than 180 days after the date sites are selected under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall offer each site for competitive leasing to qualified bidders under such terms and conditions as are required by the Secretary.

(B) BIDDING SYSTEMS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In offering the sites for lease, the Secretary may vary the bidding systems to be used at each lease sale, to ensure a fair return to the public, including—

(I) cash bonus bids with a requirement for payment of the royalty established under this subtitle;

(II) variable royalty bids based on a percentage of the gross proceeds from the sale of electricity produced from the lease, except that the royalty shall not be less than the royalty required under this subtitle, together with a fixed cash bonus; and

(III) such other bidding system as ensures a fair return to the public consistent with the royalty established under this subtitle.

(ii) ROUND.—The Secretary shall limit bidding to 1 round in any lease sale.

(iii) EXPENDITURES.—In any case in which the land that is subject to lease has 1 or more pending applications for the development of wind or solar energy at the time of the lease sale, the Secretary shall give credit toward any bid submitted by the applicant for expenditures of the applicant considered by the Secretary to be qualified and necessary for the preparation of the application.

(C) REVENUES.—Bonus bids, royalties, rentals, fees, or other payments collected by the Secretary under this section shall be subject to section 474.

(D) LEASE TERMS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—As part of the pilot program, the Secretary may vary the length of the lease terms and establish such other lease terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(ii) DATA COLLECTION.—As part of the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

(I) offer on a noncompetitive basis on at least 1 site a short-term lease for data collection; and

(II) on the expiration of the short-term lease, offer on a competitive basis a long-term lease, giving credit toward the bonus bid to the holder of the short-term lease for any qualified expenditures to collect data to develop the site during the short-term lease.

(5) COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS.—In offering for lease the selected sites under paragraph (4), the Secretary shall comply with all applicable environmental and other laws.

(6) REPORT.—The Secretary shall—

(A) compile a report of the results of each lease sale under the pilot program, including—

(i) the level of competitive interest;

(ii) a summary of bids and revenues received; and

(iii) any other factors that may have impacted the lease sale process; and

(B) not later than 90 days after the final lease sale, submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives the report described in subparagraph (A).

(7) RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—During the pendency of the pilot program, the Secretary shall continue to issue rights-of-way, in compliance with authority in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, for available sites not selected for the pilot program.

(b) SECRETARIAL DETERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall make a joint determination on whether to establish a leasing program under this section for wind or solar energy, or both, on all covered land.

(2) SYSTEM.—If the Secretaries determine that a leasing program should be established, the program shall apply to all covered land in accordance with this subtitle and other provisions of law applicable to public land or National Forest System land.

(3) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretaries shall establish a leasing program unless the Secretaries determine that the program—

(A) is not in the public interest; and

(B) does not provide an effective means of developing wind or solar energy.

(4) CONSULTATION.—In making the determinations required under this subsection, the Secretaries shall consult with—

(A) the heads of other relevant Federal agencies;

(B) interested States, Indian tribes, and local governments;

(C) representatives of the solar and wind industries;

(D) representatives of the environment, conservation, and outdoor sporting communities;

(E) other users of the covered land; and

(F) the public.

(5) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making the determinations required under this subsection, the Secretaries shall consider the results of the pilot program.

(6) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which any determination is made to establish a leasing program, the Secretaries shall jointly promulgate final regulations to implement the program.

(7) REPORT.—If the Secretaries determine that a leasing program should not be established, not later than 60 days after the date of the determination, the Secretaries shall jointly submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing the basis and findings for the determination.

(c) TRANSITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretaries determine under subsection (b) that a leasing program should be established for covered land, until the program is established and final regulations for the program are issued—

(A) the Secretary shall continue to accept applications for rights-of-way on covered land, and provide for the issuance of rights-of-way on covered land within the jurisdiction of the Secretary for the development of wind or solar energy pursuant to each requirement described in title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761 et seq.) and other applicable law; and

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture shall continue to accept applications for authorizations, and provide for the issuance of the authorizations, for the development of wind or solar energy on covered land within the jurisdiction of the Secretary pursuant to applicable law.

(2) EXISTING RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Effective beginning on the date on which the wind or solar leasing programs are established and final regulations are issued, the Secretaries shall not renew an existing right-of-way or other authorization for wind or solar energy development at the end of the term of the right-of-way or authorization.

(B) LEASE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), at the end of the term of the right-of-way or other authorization for the wind or solar energy project, the Secretary or, in the case of National Forest System land, the Secretary of Agriculture, shall grant, without a competitive process, a lease to the holder of the right-of-way or other authorization for the same covered land as was authorized under the right-of-way or other authorization if (as determined by the Secretary concerned)—

(I) the holder of the right-of-way or other authorization has met the requirements of diligent development; and

(II) issuance of the lease is in the public interest and consistent with applicable law.

(ii) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—Any lease described in clause (i) shall be subject to—

(I) terms and conditions that are consistent with this subtitle and the regulations issued under this subtitle; and

(II) the regulations in effect on the date of renewal and any other terms and conditions that the Secretary considers necessary to protect the public interest.

(3) PENDING RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Effective beginning on the date on which the wind or solar leasing programs are established and final regulations for the programs are issued, the Secretary or, with respect to National Forest System land, the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide any applicant that has filed a plan of development for a right-of-way or, in the case of National Forest System land, for an applicable authorization, for a wind or solar energy project with an option to acquire a lease on a noncompetitive basis, under such terms and conditions as are required by this subtitle, applicable regulations, and the Secretary concerned, for the same covered land included in the plan of development if—

(A) the plan of development has been determined by the Secretary concerned to be adequate for the initiation of environmental review;

(B) granting the lease is consistent with all applicable land use planning, environmental, and other laws;

(C) the applicant has made a good faith effort to obtain a right-of-way or, in the case of National Forest System land, other authorization, for the project; and

(D) issuance of the lease is in the public interest.

(d) LEASING PROGRAM.—If the Secretaries determine under subsection (b) that a leasing program should be established, the program shall be established in accordance with subsections (e) through (k).

(e) COMPETITIVE LEASES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), leases for wind or solar energy development under this section shall be issued on a competitive basis with a single round of bidding in any lease sale.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply if the Secretary or, with respect to National Forest System land, the Secretary of Agriculture determines that—

(A) no competitive interest exists for the covered land;

(B) the public interest would not be served by the competitive issuance of a lease;

(C) the lease is for the placement and operation of a meteorological or data collection facility or for the development or demonstration of a new wind or solar technology and has a term of not more than 5 years; or

(D) the covered land is eligible to be granted a noncompetitive lease under subsection (c).

(f) PAYMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall jointly establish—

(A) fees, rentals, bonuses, or other payments to ensure a fair return to the United States for any lease issued under this section; and

(B) royalties pursuant to section 475 that apply to all leases issued under this section.

(2) BONUS BIDS.—The Secretaries may grant credit toward any bonus bid for a qualified expenditure by the holder of a lease described in subsection (e)(2)(C) in any competitive lease sale held for a long-term lease covering the same land covered by the lease described in subsection (e)(2)(C).

(g) QUALIFICATIONS.—Prior to any lease sale, the Secretary shall establish qualifications for bidders that ensure bidders meet the requirements described in subsection (a)(3).

(h) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretaries shall ensure that any activity under a leasing program is carried out in a manner that—

(1) is consistent with all applicable land use planning, environmental, and other laws; and

(2) provides for—

(A) safety;

(B) protection of the environment and fish and wildlife habitat;

(C) mitigation of impacts;

(D) prevention of waste;

(E) diligent development of the resource, with specific milestones to be met by the lessee as determined by the Secretaries;

(F) coordination with applicable Federal agencies;

(G) a fair return to the United States for any lease;

(H) use of best management practices, including planning and practices for mitigation of impacts;

(I) public notice and comment on any proposal submitted for a lease under this section;

(J) oversight, inspection, research, monitoring, and enforcement relating to a lease under this section;

(K) the quantity of acreage to be commensurate with the size of the project covered by a lease; and

(L) efficient use of water resources.

(i) LEASE DURATION, SUSPENSION, AND CANCELLATION.—

(1) DURATION.—A lease under this section shall be for—

(A) an initial term of 25 years; and

(B) any additional period after the initial term during which electricity is being produced annually in commercial quantities from the lease.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall establish terms and conditions for the issuance, transfer, renewal, suspension, and cancellation of a lease under this section.

(3) READJUSTMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Royalties, rentals, and other terms and conditions of a lease under this section shall be subject to readjustment—

(i) on the date that is 15 years after the date on which the lease is issued; and

(ii) every 10 years thereafter.

(B) LEASE.—Each lease issued under this subtitle shall provide for readjustment in accordance with subparagraph (A).

(j) SURFACE-DISTURBING ACTIVITIES.—The Secretaries shall—

(1) regulate all surface-disturbing activities conducted pursuant to any lease issued under this section; and

(2) require any necessary reclamation and other actions under the lease as are required

in the interest of conservation of surface resources.

(k) SECURITY.—The Secretaries shall require the holder of a lease issued under this section—

(1) to furnish a surety bond or other form of security, as prescribed by the Secretaries;

(2) to provide for the reclamation and restoration of the area covered by the lease; and

(3) to comply with such other requirements as the Secretaries consider necessary to protect the interests of the public and the United States.

(l) PERIODIC REVIEW.—Not less frequently than once every 5 years, the Secretary shall conduct a review of the adequacy of the surety bond or other form of security provided by the holder of a lease issued under this section.

SEC. 474. DISPOSITION OF REVENUES.

(a) DISPOSITION OF REVENUES.—Of the amounts collected as bonus bids, royalties, rentals, fees, or other payments under a right-of-way, permit, lease, or other authorization for the development of wind or solar energy on covered land—

(1) 25 percent shall be paid by the Secretary of the Treasury to the State within the boundaries of which the income is derived;

(2) 25 percent shall be paid by the Secretary of the Treasury to the 1 or more counties within the boundaries of which the income is derived;

(3) 15 percent shall—

(A) for the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on date the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of this Act, be deposited in the Treasury of the United States to help facilitate the processing of renewable energy permits by the Bureau of Land Management, including the transfer of the funds by the Bureau of Land Management to other Federal agencies and State agencies to facilitate the processing of renewable energy permits on Federal land; and

(B) beginning on the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of this Act, be deposited in the Fund; and

(4) 35 percent shall be deposited in the Renewable Energy Resource Conservation Fund established by subsection (c).

(b) PAYMENTS TO STATES AND COUNTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), amounts paid to States and counties under subsection (a) shall be used consistent with section 35 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191).

(2) IMPACTS ON FEDERAL LAND.—Not less than 33 percent of the amount paid to a State shall be used on an annual basis for the purposes described in subsection (c)(2)(A).

(c) RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE CONSERVATION FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury a fund, to be known as the ''Renewable Energy Resource Conservation Fund'', to be administered by the Secretary for use in regions impacted by the development of wind or solar energy.

(2) USE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available to the Secretary, who may make amounts available to the Secretary of Agriculture and to other Federal or State agencies, as appropriate, for the purposes of—

(i) addressing and offsetting the impacts of wind or solar development on Federal land, including restoring and protecting—

(I) fish and wildlife habitat for affected species;

(II) fish and wildlife corridors for affected species; and

(III) water resources in areas impacted by wind or solar energy development;

(ii) securing recreational access to Federal land through an easement, right-of-way, or fee title acquisition from willing sellers for the purpose of providing enhanced public access to existing Federal land that is inaccessible or significantly restricted; and

(iii) carrying out activities authorized under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460*l*–4 et seq.) in the State.

(B) ADVISORY BOARD.—The Secretary shall establish an independent advisory board composed of key stakeholders and technical experts to provide recommendations and guidance on the disposition of any amounts expended from the Fund.

(3) MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS.—The expenditure of funds under this subsection shall be in addition to any mitigation requirements imposed pursuant to any law, regulation, or term or condition of any lease, right-of-way, or other authorization.

(4) INVESTMENT OF FUND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any amounts deposited in the Fund shall earn interest in an amount determined by the Secretary of the Treasury on the basis of the current average market yield on outstanding marketable obligations of the United States of comparable maturities.

(B) USE.—Any interest earned under subparagraph (A) may be expended in accordance with this subsection.

SEC. 475. ROYALTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries shall require as a term and condition of any lease, right-of-way, permit, or other authorization for the development of wind or solar energy on covered land the payment of a royalty established by the Secretaries pursuant to a joint rulemaking that shall be a percentage of the gross proceeds from the sale of electricity at a rate that—

(1) encourages production of solar or wind energy;

(2) ensures a fair return to the public comparable to the return that would be obtained on State and private land; and

(3) encourages the maximum energy generation while disturbing the least quantity of covered land and other natural resources, including water.

(b) AMOUNT.—The royalty on electricity produced using wind or solar resources shall be—

(1) not less than 1 percent, and not more than 2.5 percent, of the gross proceeds from the sale of electricity produced from the resources during the first 10 years of production; and

(2) not less than 2 percent, and not more than 5 percent, of the gross proceeds from the sale of electricity produced from the resources during each year after that initial 10-year period.

(c) DIFFERENT ROYALTY RATES.—The Secretaries may establish—

(1) a different royalty rate for wind or solar energy generation; and

(2) a reduced royalty rate for projects located within a zone identified for development of solar or wind energy.

(d) ROYALTY IN LIEU OF RENT.—During the period of production, a royalty shall be collected in lieu of any rent for the land from which the electricity is produced.

(e) ROYALTY RELIEF.—To promote the generation of renewable energy, the Secretaries may reduce any royalty otherwise required on a showing by clear and convincing evidence by the person holding a lease, right-of-way, permit, or other authorization for the development of wind or solar energy on covered land under which the generation of energy is or will be produced in commercial quantities that—

(1) collection of the full royalty would unreasonably burden energy generation; and

(2) the royalty reduction is in the public interest.

(f) PERIODIC REVIEW AND REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall—

(A) complete a review of collections and impacts of the royalty and fees provided under this subtitle; and

(B) submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing the results of the review.

(2) TOPICS.—The report shall address—

(A) the total revenues received (by category) on an annual basis as royalties from wind, solar, and geothermal development and production (specified by energy source) on covered land;

(B) whether the revenues received for the development of wind, solar, and geothermal development are comparable to the revenues received for similar development on State and private land;

(C) any impact on the development of wind, solar, and geothermal development and production on covered land as a result of the royalties; and

(D) any recommendations with respect to changes in Federal law (including regulations) relating to the amount or method of collection (including auditing, compliance, and enforcement) of the royalties.

(g) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall jointly issue final regulations to carry out this section.

SEC. 476. ENFORCEMENT OF ROYALTY AND PAYMENT PROVISIONS.

(a) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall establish a comprehensive inspection, collection, fiscal, and production accounting and auditing system—

(1) to accurately determine royalties, rentals, interest, fines, penalties, fees, deposits, and other payments owed under this subtitle; and

(2) to collect and account for the payments in a timely manner.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW.—The Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (including the civil and criminal enforcement provisions of that Act) shall apply to leases, permits, rights-of-way, or other authorizations issued for the development of solar or wind energy on covered land and the holders and operators of the leases, permits, rights-of-way, or other authorizations (and designees) under this title, except that in applying that Act—

(1) ''wind or solar leases, permits, rights-of-way, or other authorizations'' shall be substituted for ''oil and gas leases'';

(2) ''electricity generated from wind or solar resources'' shall be substituted for ''oil and gas'' (when used as nouns);

(3) ''lease, permit, right-of-way, or other authorization for the development of wind or solar energy'' shall be substituted for ''lease'' and ''lease for oil and gas'' (when used as nouns); and

(4) ''lessee, permittee, right-of-way holder, or holder of an authorization for the development of wind or solar energy'' shall be substituted for ''lessee''.

SEC. 477. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 302(c) and 303 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732(c), 1733) shall apply to activities conducted on covered land under this title.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS.—Nothing in this title reduces or

limits the enforcement authority vested in the Secretary or the Attorney General by any other law.

SEC. 478. SEGREGATION FROM APPROPRIATION UNDER MINING AND FEDERAL LAND LAWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On covered land identified by the Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture for the development of solar or wind power under this title or other applicable law, the Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture may temporarily segregate the identified land from appropriation under the mining and public land laws.

(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Segregation of covered land under this section—

(1) may only be made for a period not to exceed 10 years; and

(2) shall be subject to valid existing rights as of the date of the segregation.

SEC. 479. REPORT.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall carry out a study on the siting, development, and management of projects to determine the feasibility of carrying out a conservation banking program on land administered by the Secretaries.

(2) CONTENTS.—The study under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) identify areas in which—

(i) privately owned land is not available to offset the impacts of solar or wind energy development on federally administered land; or

(ii) mitigation investments on federally administered land are likely to provide greater conservation value for impacts of solar or wind energy development on federally administered land; and

(B) examine—

(i) the effectiveness of laws (including regulations) and policies in effect on the date of enactment of this Act in facilitating the development of conservation banks;

(ii) the advantages and disadvantages of using conservation banks on Federal land to mitigate impacts to natural resources on private land; and

(iii) any changes in Federal law (including regulations) or policy necessary to further develop a Federal conservation banking program.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall jointly submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) the recommendations of the Secretaries relating to—

(A) the most effective system for Federal land described in subsection (a)(2)(A) to meet the goals of facilitating the development of a conservation banking program on Federal land; and

(B) any change to Federal law (including regulations) or policy necessary to address more effectively the siting, development, and management of conservation banking programs on Federal land to mitigate impacts to natural resources on private land; and

(2) any administrative action to be taken by the Secretaries in response to the recommendations.

(c) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the report described in subsection (b) is submitted to Congress, the Secretaries shall make the results of the study available to the public.

SEC. 480. APPLICABILITY OF LAW.

(a) RENTAL FEE EXEMPTION.—Wind or solar generation projects with a capacity of 20 megawatts or more that are issued a lease, right-of-way, permit, or other authorization under applicable law shall not be subject to the rental fee exemption for rights-of-way under section 504(g) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1764(g)).

(b) FEES, CHARGES, AND COMMISSIONS.—Section 304 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1734) shall apply to an application made under section 473.

SA 2993. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SECTION 504. USE OF FEDERAL DISASTER RELIEF AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT PRODUCTS AND STRUCTURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5141 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 327. USE OF ASSISTANCE FOR ENERGY-EFFICIENT PRODUCTS AND STRUCTURES.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'energy-efficient product' means a product that—

''(A) meets or exceeds the requirements for designation under an Energy Star program established under section 324A of the of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6294a); or

''(B) meets or exceeds the requirements for designation as being among the highest 25 percent of equivalent products for energy efficiency under the Federal Energy Management Program; and

''(2) the term 'energy-efficient structure' means a residential structure, a public facility, or a private nonprofit facility that meets or exceeds the requirements of American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers Standard 90.1–2010 or the 2013 International Energy Conservation Code, or any successor thereto.

''(b) USE OF ASSISTANCE.—A recipient of assistance relating to a major disaster or emergency may use the assistance to replace or repair a damaged product or structure with an energy-efficient product or energy-efficient structure.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to assistance made available under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) before, on, or after the date of enactment of this Act that is expended on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SA 2994. Mr. KING submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. FUEL SWITCHING UNDER WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 415(c)(1) of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6865(c)(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph (E) and inserting the following:

''(E) the cost of making heating and cooling modifications, including replacement (including, at the option of the State, nonrenewable fuel switching when replacing furnaces or appliances if the new unit is more efficient than the replaced unit).''.

SA 2995. Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

DIVISION B—WEATHERIZATION AND STATE ENERGY PROGRAMS

SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Weatherization Enhancement and Local Energy Efficiency Investment and Accountability Act''.

SEC. 2002. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the State energy program established under part D of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6321 et seq.) (referred to in this section as ''SEP'') and the Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons established under part A of title IV of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6861 et seq.) (referred to in this section as ''WAP'') have proven to be beneficial, long-term partnerships among Federal, State, and local partners;

(2) the SEP and the WAP have been reauthorized on a bipartisan basis over many years to address changing national, regional, and State circumstances and needs, especially through—

(A) the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.);

(B) the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.);

(C) the State Energy Efficiency Programs Improvement Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–440; 104 Stat. 1006);

(D) the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13201 et seq.);

(E) the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801 et seq.); and

(F) the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17001 et seq.);

(3) the SEP, also known as the ''State energy conservation program''—

(A) was first created in 1975 to implement a State-based, national program in support of energy efficiency, renewable energy, economic development, energy emergency preparedness, and energy policy; and

(B) has come to operate in every sector of the economy in support of the private sector to improve productivity and has dramatically reduced the cost of government through energy savings at the State and local levels;

(4) Federal laboratory studies have concluded that, for every Federal dollar invested through the SEP, more than $7 is saved in energy costs and almost $11 in non-Federal funds is leveraged;

(5) the WAP—

(A) was first created in 1976 to assist low-income families in response to the first oil embargo;

(B) has become the largest residential energy conservation program in the United States, with more than 7,100,000 homes weatherized since the WAP was created;

(C) saves an estimated 35 percent of consumption in the typical weatherized home, yielding average annual savings of $437 per year in home energy costs;

(D) has created thousands of jobs in both the construction sector and in the supply chain of materials suppliers, vendors, and manufacturers who supply the WAP;

(E) returns $2.51 in energy savings for every Federal dollar spent in energy and nonenergy benefits over the life of weatherized homes;

(F) serves as a foundation for residential energy efficiency retrofit standards, technical skills, and workforce training for the

emerging broader market and reduces residential and power plant emissions of carbon dioxide by 2.65 metric tons each year per home; and

(G) has decreased national energy consumption by the equivalent of 24,100,000 barrels of oil annually;

(6) the WAP can be enhanced with the addition of a targeted portion of the Federal funds through an innovative program that supports projects performed by qualified nonprofit organizations that have a demonstrated capacity to build, renovate, repair, or improve the energy efficiency of a significant number of low-income homes, building on the success of the existing program without replacing the existing WAP network or creating a separate delivery mechanism for basic WAP services;

(7) the WAP has increased energy efficiency opportunities by promoting new, competitive public-private sector models of retrofitting low-income homes through new Federal partnerships;

(8) improved monitoring and reporting of the work product of the WAP has yielded benefits, and expanding independent verification of efficiency work will support the long-term goals of the WAP;

(9) reports of the Government Accountability Office in 2011, Inspector General's of the Department of Energy, and State auditors have identified State-level deficiencies in monitoring efforts that can be addressed in a manner that will ensure that WAP funds are used more effectively;

(10) through the history of the WAP, the WAP has evolved with improvements in efficiency technology, including, in the 1990s, many States adopting advanced home energy audits, which has led to great returns on investment; and

(11) as the home energy efficiency industry has become more performance-based, the WAP should continue to use those advances in technology and the professional workforce.

TITLE XXI—WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

SEC. 2101. REAUTHORIZATION OF WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 422 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6872) is amended by striking ''appropriated—'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''appropriated $450,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019.''.

SEC. 2102. GRANTS FOR NEW, SELF-SUSTAINING LOW-INCOME, SINGLE-FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY HOUSING ENERGY RETROFIT MODEL PROGRAMS TO ELIGIBLE MULTISTATE HOUSING AND ENERGY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

The Energy Conservation and Production Act is amended by inserting after section 414B (42 U.S.C. 6864b) the following:

''SEC. 414C. GRANTS FOR NEW, SELF-SUSTAINING LOW-INCOME, SINGLE-FAMILY AND MULTIFAMILY HOUSING ENERGY RETROFIT MODEL PROGRAMS TO ELIGIBLE MULTISTATE HOUSING AND ENERGY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.

''(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

''(1) to expand the number of low-income, single-family and multifamily homes that receive energy efficiency retrofits;

''(2) to promote innovation and new models of retrofitting low-income homes through new Federal partnerships with covered organizations that leverage substantial donations, donated materials, volunteer labor, homeowner labor equity, and other private sector resources;

''(3) to assist the covered organizations in demonstrating, evaluating, improving, and replicating widely the model low-income energy retrofit programs of the covered organizations; and

''(4) to ensure that the covered organizations make the energy retrofit programs of the covered organizations self-sustaining by the time grant funds have been expended.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COVERED ORGANIZATION.—The term 'covered organization' means an organization that—

''(A) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under 501(a) of that Code; and

''(B) has an established record of constructing, renovating, repairing, or making energy efficient a total of not less than 250 owner-occupied, single-family or multifamily homes per year for low-income households, either directly or through affiliates, chapters, or other direct partners (using the most recent year for which data are available).

''(2) LOW-INCOME.—The term 'low-income' means an income level that is not more than 200 percent of the poverty level (as determined in accordance with criteria established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget) applicable to a family of the size involved, except that the Secretary may establish a higher or lower level if the Secretary determines that a higher or lower level is necessary to carry out this section.

''(3) WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME PERSONS.—The term 'Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons' means the program established under this part (including part 440 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations).

''(c) COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall make grants to covered organizations through a national competitive process for use in accordance with this section.

''(d) AWARD FACTORS.—In making grants under this section, the Secretary shall consider—

''(1) the number of low-income homes the applicant—

''(A) has built, renovated, repaired, or made more energy efficient as of the date of the application; and

''(B) can reasonably be projected to build, renovate, repair, or make energy efficient during the 10-year period beginning on the date of the application;

''(2) the qualifications, experience, and past performance of the applicant, including experience successfully managing and administering Federal funds;

''(3) the number and diversity of States and climates in which the applicant works as of the date of the application;

''(4) the amount of non-Federal funds, donated or discounted materials, discounted or volunteer skilled labor, volunteer unskilled labor, homeowner labor equity, and other resources the applicant will provide;

''(5) the extent to which the applicant could successfully replicate the energy retrofit program of the applicant and sustain the program after the grant funds have been expended;

''(6) regional diversity;

''(7) urban, suburban, and rural localities; and

''(8) such other factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

''(e) APPLICATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall request proposals from covered organizations.

''(2) ADMINISTRATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an applicant shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(3) AWARDS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of issuance of a request for proposals, the Secretary shall award grants under this section.

''(f) ELIGIBLE USES OF GRANT FUNDS.—A grant under this section may be used for—

''(1) energy efficiency audits, cost-effective retrofit, and related activities in different climatic regions of the United States;

''(2) energy efficiency materials and supplies;

''(3) organizational capacity—

''(A) to significantly increase the number of energy retrofits;

''(B) to replicate an energy retrofit program in other States; and

''(C) to ensure that the program is self-sustaining after the Federal grant funds are expended;

''(4) energy efficiency, audit and retrofit training, and ongoing technical assistance;

''(5) information to homeowners on proper maintenance and energy savings behaviors;

''(6) quality control and improvement;

''(7) data collection, measurement, and verification;

''(8) program monitoring, oversight, evaluation, and reporting;

''(9) management and administration (up to a maximum of 10 percent of the total grant);

''(10) labor and training activities; and

''(11) such other activities as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

''(g) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant provided under this section shall not exceed—

''(1) if the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year is $225,000,000 or more, $5,000,000; and

''(2) if the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year is less than $225,000,000, $1,500,000.

''(h) GUIDELINES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue guidelines to implement the grant program established under this section.

''(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The guidelines—

''(A) shall not apply to the Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons, in whole or major part; but

''(B) may rely on applicable provisions of law governing the Weatherization Assistance Program for Low-Income Persons to establish—

''(i) standards for allowable expenditures;

''(ii) a minimum savings-to-investment ratio;

''(iii) standards—

''(I) to carry out training programs;

''(II) to conduct energy audits and program activities;

''(III) to provide technical assistance;

''(IV) to monitor program activities; and

''(V) to verify energy and cost savings;

''(iv) liability insurance requirements; and

''(v) recordkeeping requirements, which shall include reporting to the Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs of the Department of Energy applicable data on each home retrofitted.

''(i) REVIEW AND EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall review and evaluate the performance of any covered organization that receives a grant under this section (which may include an audit), as determined by the Secretary.

''(j) COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAW.—Nothing in this section or any program carried out using a grant provided under this section supersedes or otherwise affects any State or local law, to the extent

that the State or local law contains a requirement that is more stringent than the applicable requirement of this section.

''(k) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress annual reports that provide—

''(1) findings;

''(2) a description of energy and cost savings achieved and actions taken under this section; and

''(3) any recommendations for further action.

''(l) FUNDING.—Of the amount of funds that are made available to carry out the Weatherization Assistance Program for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019 under section 422, the Secretary shall use to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019—

''(1) 2 percent of the amount if the amount is less than $225,000,000;

''(2) 5 percent of the amount if the amount is $225,000,000 or more but less than $260,000,000;

''(3) 10 percent of the amount if the amount is $260,000,000 or more but less than $400,000,000; and

''(4) 20 percent of the amount if the amount is $400,000,000 or more.''.

SEC. 2103. STANDARDS PROGRAM.

Section 415 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6865) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) STANDARDS PROGRAM.—

''(1) CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATION.—Effective beginning January 1, 2015, to be eligible to carry out weatherization using funds made available under this part, a contractor shall be selected through a competitive bidding process and be—

''(A) accredited by the Building Performance Institute;

''(B) an Energy Smart Home Performance Team accredited under the Residential Energy Services Network; or

''(C) accredited by an equivalent accreditation or program accreditation-based State certification program approved by the Secretary.

''(2) GRANTS FOR ENERGY RETROFIT MODEL PROGRAMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under section 414C, a covered organization (as defined in section 414C(b)) shall use a crew chief who—

''(i) is certified or accredited in accordance with paragraph (1); and

''(ii) supervises the work performed with grant funds.

''(B) VOLUNTEER LABOR.—A volunteer who performs work for a covered organization that receives a grant under section 414C shall not be required to be certified under this subsection if the volunteer is not directly installing or repairing mechanical equipment or other items that require skilled labor.

''(C) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall use training and technical assistance funds available to the Secretary to assist covered organizations under section 414C in providing training to obtain certification required under this subsection, including provisional or temporary certification.

''(3) MINIMUM EFFICIENCY STANDARDS.—Effective beginning October 1, 2015, the Secretary shall ensure that—

''(A) each retrofit for which weatherization assistance is provided under this part meets minimum efficiency and quality of work standards established by the Secretary after weatherization of a dwelling unit;

''(B) at least 10 percent of the dwelling units are randomly inspected by a third party accredited under this subsection to ensure compliance with the minimum efficiency and quality of work standards established under subparagraph (A); and

''(C) the standards established under this subsection meet or exceed the industry standards for home performance work that are in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection, as determined by the Secretary.''.

TITLE XXII—STATE ENERGY PROGRAM

SEC. 2201. REAUTHORIZATION OF STATE ENERGY PROGRAM.

Section 365(f) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6325(f)) is amended by striking ''$125,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2012'' and inserting ''$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019''.

SA 2996. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. STUDY OF REGULATIONS THAT LIMIT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM EXISTING POWER PLANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the effect that regulations limiting greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants would have on jobs and energy prices.

(b) DETERMINATION.—If, based on the study conducted under subsection (a), the Secretary of Energy determines that the regulations described in that subsection would directly or indirectly destroy jobs or raise energy prices, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not finalize the regulations.

SA 2997. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5_____. CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF EPA REGULATIONS WITH HIGH COMPLIANCE COSTS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the cost of compliance with a regulation of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency exceeds $1,000,000,000, the regulation shall not take effect unless Congress enacts a law that approves the regulation.

SA 2998. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5_____. DOMESTIC OIL AND NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION GOAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In developing an onshore and offshore oil and gas leasing program for the Department of the Interior, subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Interior (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary'') shall determine a domestic strategic production goal for the development of oil and natural gas from Federal onshore and offshore areas, which goal shall be—

(1) the best estimate of the practicable increase in domestic production of oil and natural gas from the outer Continental Shelf and Federal onshore areas; and

(2) focused on—

(A) meeting domestic demand for oil and natural gas;

(B) reducing the dependence of the United States on foreign energy; and

(C) the production increases achieved by the leasing program at the end of each of the 15- and 30-year periods beginning on the effective date of the program.

(b) PROGRAM GOAL.—For purposes of the onshore and offshore oil and gas leasing program of the Department of the Interior, the production goal determined under subsection (a) shall be an increase by January 1, 2032, of the greater of—

(1)(A) not less than 3,000,000 barrels in the quantity of oil produced per day; and

(B) not less than 10,000,000,000 cubic feet in the quantity of natural gas produced per day; or

(2) not less than the projected 30-year percentage increase in the production of oil and natural gas from non-Federal areas, as determined by the Energy Information Administration.

(c) REPORT.—Beginning on the date that is 1 year after the effective date of the onshore and offshore oil and gas leasing program and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the progress of the program in meeting the production goal under subsection (a) that includes an identification of projections for production and any problems with leasing, permitting, or production that will prevent meeting the goal.

SA 2999. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 4___. STUDY OF EFFECT OF TIER 3 MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSION AND FUEL STANDARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the effect that the Tier 3 motor vehicle emission and fuel standard would have on the price of gasoline.

(b) DETERMINATION.—If, based on the study conducted under subsection (a), the Secretary of Energy determines that the Tier 3 motor vehicle emission and fuel standard would result in an increase in the price of gasoline, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not finalize the standard.

SA 3000. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5_____. PROHIBITION ON COLLECTION AND DISBURSEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCER PERSONAL INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not establish any searchable online database

of the personal information of any owner, operator, or employee of a livestock or farming operation.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—For purposes of subsection (a), personal information includes—

(1) names of the owners, operators, or employees or of family members of the owners, operators, or employees;

(2) telephone numbers;

(3) email addresses;

(4) physical or mailing addresses;

(5) number of livestock;

(6) Global Positioning System coordinates; or

(7) other personal information regarding the owners, operators, or employees.

(c) FOIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Personal information described in subsection (b) shall be exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—For purposes of paragraph (1), this section shall be considered a statute described in section 552(b)(3)(B) of title 5, United States Code.

SA 3001. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5_____. ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES MANUFACTURING INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17013) is repealed.

(b) EFFECT OF REPEAL.—The repeal under subsection (a) shall not affect any incentive, loan, or other assistance provided under section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17013) on or before January 1, 2014.

SA 3002. Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5____. GROUND-LEVEL OZONE STANDARDS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), in promulgating a national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for ozone, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency—

(1) shall not propose a national primary or secondary ambient air quality standard for ozone that is lower than the standard established under section 50.15 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on January 1, 2014), until at least 85 percent of the counties that were nonattainment areas under that standard as of January 1, 2014, achieve full compliance with that standard;

(2) shall only consider all or part of a county to be a nonattainment area under the standard on the basis of direct air quality monitoring;

(3) shall take into consideration feasibility and cost; and

(4) shall include in the regulatory impact analysis for the proposed and final rule at least 1 analysis that does not include any calculation of benefits resulting from reducing emissions of any pollutant other than ozone.

SA 3003. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. GUIDELINES TO ENCOURAGE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES TO HELP REDUCE ENERGY USE AND COSTS.

Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue to the head of each Federal agency guidelines to reduce energy costs at that Federal agency by requiring employees of the Federal agency—

(1) to turn off the lights in the work areas of the employees at the end of the work day; and

(2) to turn off or unplug other devices that consume energy during periods in which the employees are not in the office.

SA 3004. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. INSTALLATION RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT DATABASE.

(a) LIMITATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a searchable database to uniformly report information regarding installation renewable energy projects undertaken since 2010.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The database established under subsection (a) shall include, for each installation energy project—

(1) the estimated project costs;

(2) estimated power generation;

(3) estimated total cost savings;

(4) estimated payback period;

(5) total project costs;

(6) actual power generation;

(7) actual cost savings to date;

(8) current operational status; and

(9) access to relevant business case documents, including the economic viability assessment.

(c) UPDATES.—The database established under subsection (a) shall be updated not less than quarterly.

SA 3005. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall certify that the amount of energy cost savings over a 10-year period as a result of each project or activity funded under this Act or an amendment made by this Act would equal or exceed the cost of the project or activity.

(b) ACTUAL ENERGY USE.—On completion of a project or activity provided funds under this Act or an amendment made by this Act, the Secretary shall certify that, over a 10-year period, as a result of the project or activity—

(1) there was a reduction in actual energy use; and

(2) the energy cost savings exceeded the costs of the project or activity.

SA 3006. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 82, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 4____. EVALUATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF DUPLICATIVE GREEN BUILDING PROGRAMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—The term ''administrative expenses'' has the meaning given the term by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under section 504(b)(2) of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (31 U.S.C. 1105 note; Public Law 111–85), except that the term shall include, for purposes of that section and this section, with respect to an agency—

(A) costs incurred by the agency and costs incurred by grantees, subgrantees, and other recipients of funds from a grant program or other program administered by the agency; and

(B) expenses related to personnel salaries and benefits, property management, travel, program management, promotion, reviews and audits, case management, and communication about, promotion of, and outreach for programs and program activities administered by the agency.

(2) APPLICABLE PROGRAMS.—The term ''applicable programs'' means the programs listed in Table 9 (pages 348-350) of the report of the Government Accountability Office entitled ''2012 Annual Report: Opportunities to Reduce Duplication, Overlap and Fragmentation, Achieve Savings, and Enhance Revenue''.

(3) APPROPRIATE SECRETARIES.—The term ''appropriate Secretaries'' means—

(A) the Secretary;

(B) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(C) the Secretary of Defense;

(D) the Secretary of Education;

(E) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(F) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;

(G) the Secretary of Transportation;

(H) the Secretary of the Treasury;

(I) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(J) the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

(K) the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(4) SERVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the term ''services'' has the meaning given the term by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The term ''services'' shall be limited to activities, assistance, and aid that provide a direct benefit to a recipient, such as—

(i) the provision of medical care;

(ii) assistance for housing or tuition; or

(iii) financial support (including grants and loans).

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1, 2014, the appropriate Secretaries shall submit to Congress and post on the public Internet websites of the agencies of the appropriate Secretaries a report on the outcomes of the applicable programs.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In reporting on the outcomes of each applicable program, the appropriate Secretaries shall—

(A) determine the total administrative expenses of the applicable program;

(B) determine the expenditures for services for the applicable program;

(C) estimate the number of clients served by the applicable program and beneficiaries who received assistance under the applicable program (if applicable);

(D) estimate—

(i) the number of full-time employees who administer the applicable program; and

(ii) the number of full-time equivalents (whose salary is paid in part or full by the Federal Government through a grant or contract, a subaward of a grant or contract, a cooperative agreement, or another form of financial award or assistance) who assist in administering the applicable program;

(E) describe the type of assistance the applicable program provides, such as grants, technical assistance, loans, tax credits, or tax deductions;

(F) describe the type of recipient who benefits from the assistance provided, such as individual property owners or renters, local governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations, or State governments; and

(G) identify and report on whether written program goals are available for the applicable program.

(c) PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than January 1, 2015, the appropriate Secretaries shall jointly submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) an analysis of whether any of the applicable programs should be eliminated or consolidated, including any legislative changes that would be necessary to eliminate or consolidate the applicable programs; and

(2) ways to improve the applicable programs by establishing program goals or increasing collaboration so as to reduce the overlap and duplication identified in—

(A) the 2011 report of the Government Accountability Office entitled ''Federal Initiatives for the NonFederal Sector Could Benefit from More Interagency Collaboration''; and

(B) the report of the Government Accountability Office entitled ''2012 Annual Report: Opportunities to Reduce Duplication, Overlap and Fragmentation, Achieve Savings, and Enhance Revenue''.

(d) PROGRAM ELIMINATIONS.—Not later than January 1, 2015, the appropriate Secretaries shall—

(1) identify—

(A) which applicable programs are specifically required by law; and

(B) which applicable programs are carried out under the discretionary authority of the appropriate Secretaries;

(2) eliminate those applicable programs that are not required by law; and

(3) transfer any remaining applicable projects and nonduplicative functions into another green building program within the same agency.

SA 3007. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. REPEAL OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES MANUFACTURING INCENTIVE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) REPEAL.—Section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17013) is repealed.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) takes effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) DEFICIT REDUCTION.—Any amounts made available to carry out section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17013) (as in effect before the amendment made by subsection (a)) that are not obligated as of the date of enactment of this Act are rescinded.

SA 3008. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. VITTER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. COCHRAN, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

SEC. 5___. IDENTIFICATION OF WATERS PROTECTED BY THE CLEAN WATER ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Neither the Secretary of the Army nor the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall—

(1) finalize the proposed rule entitled ''Definition of 'Waters of the United States' Under the Clean Water Act'' (79 Fed. Reg. 22188 (April 21, 2014)); or

(2) use the proposed rule described in paragraph (1), or any substantially similar proposed rule or guidance, as the basis for any rulemaking or any decision regarding the scope or enforcement of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.).

(b) RULES.—The use of the proposed rule described in subsection (a)(1), or any substantially similar proposed rule or guidance, as the basis for any rulemaking or any decision regarding the scope or enforcement of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) shall be grounds for vacation of the final rule, decision, or enforcement action.

SA 3009. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico (for himself and Mr. UDALL of Colorado) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the beginning of title V, insert the following:

SEC. 5___. RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VI of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 610. RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) BASE QUANTITY OF ELECTRICITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'base quantity of electricity' means the total quantity of electric energy sold by a retail electric supplier, expressed in terms of kilowatt hours, to electric customers for purposes other than resale during the most recent calendar year for which information is available.

''(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term 'base quantity of electricity' does not include—

''(i) electric energy that is not incremental hydropower generated by a hydroelectric facility; and

''(ii) electricity generated through the incineration of municipal solid waste.

''(2) BIOMASS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'biomass' means—

''(i) cellulosic (plant fiber) organic materials from a plant that is planted for the purpose of being used to produce energy;

''(ii) nonhazardous plant or algal matter that is derived from—

''(I) an agricultural crop, crop byproduct, or residue resource; or

''(II) waste, such as landscape or right-of-way trimmings (but not including municipal solid waste, recyclable postconsumer waste paper, painted, treated, or pressurized wood, wood contaminated with plastic, or metals);

''(iii) animal waste or animal byproducts; and

''(iv) landfill methane.

''(B) NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND CERTAIN OTHER PUBLIC LAND.—In the case of organic material removed from National Forest System land or from public land administered by the Secretary of the Interior, the term 'biomass' means only organic material from—

''(i) ecological forest restoration;

''(ii) precommercial thinnings;

''(iii) brush;

''(iv) mill residues; or

''(v) slash.

''(C) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (B), the term 'biomass' does not include material or matter that would otherwise qualify as biomass if the material or matter is located on the following Federal land:

''(i) Federal land containing old growth forest or late successional forest unless the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture determines that the removal of organic material from the land—

''(I) is appropriate for the applicable forest type; and

''(II) maximizes the retention of—

''(aa) late-successional and large and old growth trees;

''(bb) late-successional and old growth forest structure; and

''(cc) late-successional and old growth forest composition.

''(ii) Federal land on which the removal of vegetation is prohibited, including components of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

''(iii) Wilderness study areas.

''(iv) Inventoried roadless areas.

''(v) Components of the National Landscape Conservation System.

''(vi) National Monuments.

''(3) EXISTING FACILITY.—The term 'existing facility' means a facility for the generation of electric energy from a renewable energy resource that is not an eligible facility.

''(4) INCREMENTAL HYDROPOWER.—The term 'incremental hydropower' means additional generation that is achieved from increased efficiency or additions of capacity made on or after—

''(A) the date of enactment of this section; or

''(B) the effective date of an existing applicable State renewable portfolio standard program at a hydroelectric facility that was placed in service before that date.

''(5) INDIAN LAND.—The term 'Indian land' means—

''(A) any land within the limits of any Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria;

''(B) any land not within the limits of any Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria title to which was on the date of enactment of this section held by—

''(i) the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual; or

''(ii) any Indian tribe or individual subject to restriction by the United States against alienation;

''(C) any dependent Indian community; or

''(D) any land conveyed to any Alaska Native corporation under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

''(6) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian tribe' means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaskan Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

''(7) RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The term 'renewable energy' means electric energy generated by a renewable energy resource.

''(8) RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCE.—The term 'renewable energy resource' means solar, wind, ocean, tidal, geothermal energy, biomass, landfill gas, incremental hydropower, or hydrokinetic energy.

''(9) REPOWERING OR COFIRING INCREMENT.—The term 'repowering or cofiring increment' means—

''(A) the additional generation from a modification that is placed in service on or after the date of enactment of this section, to expand electricity production at a facility used to generate electric energy from a renewable energy resource;

''(B) the additional generation above the average generation during the 3-year period ending on the date of enactment of this section at a facility used to generate electric energy from a renewable energy resource or to cofire biomass that was placed in service before the date of enactment of this section; or

''(C) the portion of the electric generation from a facility placed in service on or after the date of enactment of this section, or a modification to a facility placed in service before the date of enactment of this section made on or after January 1, 2001, associated with cofiring biomass.

''(10) RETAIL ELECTRIC SUPPLIER.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'retail electric supplier' means a person that sells electric energy to electric consumers (other than consumers in Hawaii) that sold not less than 1,000,000 megawatt hours of electric energy to electric consumers for purposes other than resale during the preceding calendar year.

''(B) INCLUSION.—The term 'retail electric supplier' includes a person that sells electric energy to electric consumers that, in combination with the sales of any affiliate organized after the date of enactment of this section, sells not less than 1,000,000 megawatt hours of electric energy to consumers for purposes other than resale.

''(C) SALES TO PARENT COMPANIES OR AFFILIATES.—For purposes of this paragraph, sales by any person to a parent company or to other affiliates of the person shall not be treated as sales to electric consumers.

''(D) GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the term 'retail electric supplier' does not include—

''(I) the United States, a State, any political subdivision of a State, or any agency, authority, or instrumentality of the United States, State, or political subdivision; or

''(II) a rural electric cooperative.

''(ii) INCLUSION.—The term 'retail electric supplier' includes an entity that is a political subdivision of a State, or an agency, authority, or instrumentality of the United States, a State, a political subdivision of a State, a rural electric cooperative that sells electric energy to electric consumers, or any other entity that sells electric energy to electric consumers that would not otherwise qualify as a retail electric supplier if the entity notifies the Secretary that the entity voluntarily agrees to participate in the Federal renewable electricity standard program.

''(b) COMPLIANCE.—For calendar year 2014 and each calendar year thereafter, each retail electric supplier shall meet the requirements of subsection (c) by submitting to the Secretary, not later than April 1 of the following calendar year, 1 or more of the following:

''(1) Federal renewable energy credits issued under subsection (e).

''(2) Certification of the renewable energy generated and electricity savings pursuant to the funds associated with State compliance payments as specified in subsection (e)(4)(G).

''(3) Alternative compliance payments pursuant to subsection (h).

''(c) REQUIRED ANNUAL PERCENTAGE.—For each of calendar years 2014 through 2039, the required annual percentage of the base quantity of electricity of a retail electric supplier that shall be generated from renewable energy resources, or otherwise credited towards the percentage requirement pursuant to subsection (d), shall be the applicable percentage specified in the following table:

"Calendar Years	Required Amount percentage
2014	6.0
2015	8.5
2016	8.5
2017	11.0
2018	11.0
2019	14.0
2020	14.0
2021	17.5
2022	17.5
2023	21.0
2024	21.0
2025	23.0
2026 and thereafter through 2039	25.0.

''(d) RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A retail electric supplier may satisfy the requirements of subsection (b)(1) through the submission of Federal renewable energy credits—

''(A) issued to the retail electric supplier under subsection (e);

''(B) obtained by purchase or exchange under subsection (f); or

''(C) borrowed under subsection (g).

''(2) FEDERAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS.—A Federal renewable energy credit may be counted toward compliance with subsection (b)(1) only once.

''(e) ISSUANCE OF FEDERAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish by rule a program—

''(A) to verify and issue Federal renewable energy credits to generators of renewable energy;

''(B) to track the sale, exchange, and retirement of the credits; and

''(C) to enforce the requirements of this section.

''(2) EXISTING NON-FEDERAL TRACKING SYSTEMS.—To the maximum extent practicable, in establishing the program, the Secretary shall rely on existing and emerging State or regional tracking systems that issue and track non-Federal renewable energy credits.

''(3) APPLICATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity that generates electric energy through the use of a renewable energy resource may apply to the Secretary for the issuance of renewable energy credits.

''(B) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for the issuance of the credits, the applicant shall demonstrate to the Secretary that—

''(i) the electric energy will be transmitted onto the grid; or

''(ii) in the case of a generation offset, the electric energy offset would have otherwise been consumed onsite.

''(C) CONTENTS.—The application shall indicate—

''(i) the type of renewable energy resource that is used to produce the electricity;

''(ii) the location at which the electric energy will be produced; and

''(iii) any other information the Secretary determines appropriate.

''(4) QUANTITY OF FEDERAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the Secretary shall issue to a generator of electric energy 1 Federal renewable energy credit for each kilowatt hour of electric energy generated by the use of a renewable energy resource at an eligible facility.

''(B) INCREMENTAL HYDROPOWER.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purpose of compliance with this section, Federal renewable energy credits for incremental hydropower shall be based on the increase in average annual generation resulting from the efficiency improvements or capacity additions.

''(ii) WATER FLOW INFORMATION.—The incremental generation shall be calculated using the same water flow information that is—

''(I) used to determine a historic average annual generation baseline for the hydroelectric facility; and

''(II) certified by the Secretary or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

''(iii) OPERATIONAL CHANGES.—The calculation of the Federal renewable energy credits for incremental hydropower shall not be based on any operational changes at the hydroelectric facility that is not directly associated with the efficiency improvements or capacity additions.

''(C) INDIAN LAND.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall issue 2 renewable energy credits for each kilowatt hour of electric energy generated and supplied to the grid in a calendar year through the use of a renewable energy resource at an eligible facility located on Indian land.

''(ii) BIOMASS.—For purposes of this paragraph, renewable energy generated by biomass cofired with other fuels is eligible for 2 credits only if the biomass was grown on the land.

''(D) ON-SITE ELIGIBLE FACILITIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of electric energy generated by a renewable energy resource at an on-site eligible facility that is not larger than 1 megawatt in capacity and is used to offset all or part of the requirements of a customer for electric energy, the Secretary shall issue 3 renewable energy credits to the customer for each kilowatt hour generated.

''(ii) INDIAN LAND.—In the case of an on-site eligible facility on Indian land, the Secretary shall issue not more than 3 credits per kilowatt hour.

''(E) COMBINATION OF RENEWABLE AND NONRENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES.—If both a renewable energy resource and a nonrenewable energy resource are used to generate the electric energy, the Secretary shall issue the Federal renewable energy credits based on the proportion of the renewable energy resources used.

''(F) RETAIL ELECTRIC SUPPLIERS.—If a generator has sold electric energy generated through the use of a renewable energy resource to a retail electric supplier under a contract for power from an existing facility and the contract has not determined ownership of the Federal renewable energy credits associated with the generation, the Secretary shall issue the Federal renewable energy credits to the retail electric supplier for the duration of the contract.

''(G) COMPLIANCE WITH STATE RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD PROGRAMS.—Payments made by a retail electricity supplier, directly or indirectly, to a State for compliance with a State renewable portfolio standard program, or for an alternative compliance mechanism, shall be valued at 1 credit per kilowatt hour for the purpose of subsection (b)(2) based on the quantity of electric energy generation from renewable resources that results from the payments.

''(f) RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDIT TRADING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A Federal renewable energy credit may be sold, transferred, or exchanged by the entity to whom the credit is issued or by any other entity that acquires the Federal renewable energy credit, other than renewable energy credits from existing facilities.

''(2) CARRYOVER.—A Federal renewable energy credit for any year that is not submitted to satisfy the minimum renewable generation requirement of subsection (c) for that year may be carried forward for use pursuant to subsection (b)(1) within the next 3 years.

''(3) DELEGATION.—The Secretary may delegate to an appropriate market-making entity the administration of a national tradeable renewable energy credit market for purposes of creating a transparent national market for the sale or trade of renewable energy credits.

''(g) RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDIT BORROWING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31, 2014, a retail electric supplier that has reason to believe the retail electric supplier will not be able to fully comply with subsection (b) may—

''(A) submit a plan to the Secretary demonstrating that the retail electric supplier will earn sufficient Federal renewable energy credits within the next 3 calendar years that, when taken into account, will enable the retail electric supplier to meet the requirements of subsection (b) for calendar year 2014 and the subsequent calendar years involved; and

''(B) on the approval of the plan by the Secretary, apply Federal renewable energy credits that the plan demonstrates will be earned within the next 3 calendar years to meet the requirements of subsection (b) for each calendar year involved.

''(2) REPAYMENT.—The retail electric supplier shall repay all of the borrowed Federal renewable energy credits by submitting an equivalent number of Federal renewable energy credits, in addition to the credits otherwise required under subsection (b), by calendar year 2022 or any earlier deadlines specified in the approved plan.

''(h) ALTERNATIVE COMPLIANCE PAYMENTS.—As a means of compliance under subsection (b)(4), the Secretary shall accept payment equal to the lesser of—

''(1) 200 percent of the average market value of Federal renewable energy credits and Federal energy efficiency credits for the applicable compliance period; or

''(2) 3 cents per kilowatt hour (as adjusted on January 1 of each year following calendar year 2006 based on the implicit price deflator for the gross national product).

''(i) INFORMATION COLLECTION.—The Secretary may collect the information necessary to verify and audit—

''(1)(A) the annual renewable energy generation of any retail electric supplier; and

''(B) Federal renewable energy credits submitted by a retail electric supplier pursuant to subsection (b)(1);

''(2) the validity of Federal renewable energy credits submitted for compliance by a retail electric supplier to the Secretary; and

''(3) the quantity of electricity sales of all retail electric suppliers.

''(j) ENVIRONMENTAL SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Incremental hydropower shall be subject to all applicable environmental laws and licensing and regulatory requirements.

''(k) STATE PROGRAMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section diminishes any authority of a State or political subdivision of a State—

''(A) to adopt or enforce any law (including regulations) respecting renewable energy, including programs that exceed the required quantity of renewable energy under this section; or

''(B) to regulate the acquisition and disposition of Federal renewable energy credits by retail electric suppliers.

''(2) COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION.—No law or regulation referred to in paragraph (1)(A) shall relieve any person of any requirement otherwise applicable under this section.

''(3) COORDINATION WITH STATE PROGRAM.—The Secretary, in consultation with States that have in effect renewable energy programs, shall—

''(A) preserve the integrity of the State programs, including programs that exceed the required quantity of renewable energy under this section; and

''(B) facilitate coordination between the Federal program and State programs.

''(4) EXISTING RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAMS.—In the regulations establishing the program under this section, the Secretary shall incorporate common elements of existing renewable energy programs, including State programs, to ensure administrative ease, market transparency and effective enforcement.

''(5) MINIMIZATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS AND COSTS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall work with the States to minimize administrative burdens and costs to retail electric suppliers.

''(l) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—An electric utility that has sales of electric energy that are subject to rate regulation (including any utility with rates that are regulated by the Commission and any State regulated electric utility) shall not be denied the opportunity to recover the full amount of the prudently incurred incremental cost of renewable energy obtained to comply with the requirements of subsection (b).

''(m) PROGRAM REVIEW.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the Academy shall conduct a comprehensive evaluation of all aspects of the program established under this section.

''(2) EVALUATION.—The study shall include an evaluation of—

''(A) the effectiveness of the program in increasing the market penetration and lowering the cost of the eligible renewable energy technologies;

''(B) the opportunities for any additional technologies and sources of renewable energy emerging since the date of enactment of this section;

''(C) the impact on the regional diversity and reliability of supply sources, including the power quality benefits of distributed generation;

''(D) the regional resource development relative to renewable potential and reasons for any investment in renewable resources; and

''(E) the net cost/benefit of the renewable electricity standard to the national and State economies, including—

''(i) retail power costs;

''(ii) the economic development benefits of investment;

''(iii) avoided costs related to environmental and congestion mitigation investments that would otherwise have been required;

''(iv) the impact on natural gas demand and price; and

''(v) the effectiveness of green marketing programs at reducing the cost of renewable resources.

''(3) REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2018, the Secretary shall transmit to Congress a report describing the results of the evaluation and any recommendations for modifications and improvements to the program.

''(n) STATE RENEWABLE ENERGY ACCOUNT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury a State renewable energy account.

''(2) DEPOSITS.—All money collected by the Secretary from the alternative compliance payments under subsection (h) shall be deposited into the State renewable energy account established under paragraph (1).

''(3) GRANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Proceeds deposited in the State renewable energy account shall be used by the Secretary, subject to annual appropriations, for a program to provide grants—

''(i) to the State agency responsible for administering a fund to promote renewable energy generation for customers of the State or an alternative agency designated by the State; or

''(ii) if no agency described in clause (i), to the State agency developing State energy conservation plans under section 362 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6322).

''(B) USE.—The grants shall be used for the purpose of—

''(i) promoting renewable energy production; and

''(ii) providing energy assistance and weatherization services to low-income consumers.

''(C) CRITERIA.—The Secretary may issue guidelines and criteria for grants awarded under this paragraph.

''(D) STATE-APPROVED FUNDING MECHANISMS.—At least 75 percent of the funds provided to each State for each fiscal year shall be used to promote renewable energy production through grants, production incentives, or other State-approved funding mechanisms.

''(E) ALLOCATION.—The funds shall be allocated to the States on the basis of retail electric sales subject to the renewable electricity standard under this section or through voluntary participation.

''(F) RECORDS.—State agencies receiving grants under this paragraph shall maintain such records and evidence of compliance as the Secretary may require.''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. prec. 2601) is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to title VI the following:

''Sec. 609. Rural and remote communities electrification grants.

''Sec. 610. Renewable electricity standard.''.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will to meet on May 8, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Hearing on the nomination of the Secretary of Health and Human Services-Designate, Sylvia Mathews Burwell.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Emily Schlichting of the committee staff on (202) 224–6840.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKINS. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will to meet on May 13, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Strengthening Minority Serving Institutions: Best Practices and Innovations for Student Success.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Aissa Canchola of the committee staff on (202) 224–2009.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 6, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 6, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''New Routes for Funding and Financing Highways and Transit.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 6, 2014, at 3 p.m., to hold a hearing entitled ''Ukraine—Countering Russian Intervention and Supporting a Democratic State.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 6, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on May 6, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''A More Efficient and Effective Government: Cultivating the Federal Workforce.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator LANDRIEU, I ask unanimous consent that Megan Brewster, a fellow in Senator LANDRIEU's office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 113th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUILDING HEIGHT RULES CLARIFICATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4192, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4192) to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'' to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4192) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 438 submitted earlier today by Senators LANDRIEU and ALEXANDER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 438) congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 15th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 4 through May 10, 2014.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 438) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 439, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 439) supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 439) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2014

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 7, 2014; 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 any leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2262, the Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, postcloture, and that the time during the adjournment count postcloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. The 30 hours of postcloture debate on the motion to proceed to S. 2262 would expire at 5:45 p.m. tomorrow. Senators will be notified when the next vote is scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DURBIN. 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 7:16 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, May 7, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING TICHIUNA LASHA' FUNCHESS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a goal oriented student, Tichiuna Lasha' Funchess, from Crystal Springs High School.

Tichiuna Lasha' Funchess is the daughter of Mr. Rico and Mrs. Kimberly Funchess. She has one sibling, Danielle Floyd.

Tichiuna is an honor student at Crystal Springs High School (CSHS) with 3.88 Grade Point Average. As a natural born leader, Tichiuna demonstrates her leadership abilities in her school, community, and church. At CSHS, she is a member of Student Council, SADD Club, Mu Alpha Theta (National Society Math Organization), FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America), NSHSS (National Society of High School Scholars), Ambassador of NSHSS, and Ronald Reagan Scholars Program.

Tichiuna serves in her community as a representative of the Crystal Springs Mayor's Youth Council. She is also a faithful choir member and praise dancer at Terry Missionary Baptist Church.

Tichiuna is inspired by her physics teacher Dr. Cecilia Newsome-McGowan. She says that she truly admires Dr. McGowan because with her credentials. She could work anywhere making much more money but, instead, she devotes her time to the students at Crystal Springs High School.

Tichiuna has recently received acceptance letters from University of Mississippi and Mississippi State University to pursue a degree in Political Science. She plans to become a divorce or corporate attorney.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tichiuna Lasha' Funchess as a student who is making a difference in her community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF RODNEY A. LINDSAY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Mr. Rodney A. Lindsay, who served the United States of America honorably during the Vietnam War. Rodney's commitment and service to our country deserves to be commended.

Rodney was born in Merced, California, in July 1948. He attended local schools and graduated from Chowchilla High School in 1966.

Rodney entered the U.S. Army in April 1968, at the height of the Vietnam War. He reported to Fort Lewis, Washington, for basic training and upon completion he was sent across the country to Fort Dix, New Jersey, for advanced infantry training.

After completing infantry training, Rodney was selected to join an exclusive group of ten soldiers for specialized shoulder-fired, surface-to-air "Red Eye" missile training at Fort Bliss, Texas. Rodney then reported to Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where he received further specialized training in the operation of convoys in combat. Following all of his specialized training, the Army assigned Rodney to a military police unit.

In April 1969, Rodney was stationed in Vietnam. During his time in Vietnam, Rodney was promoted to Specialist 4 and performed a number of duties including patrolling and securing the perimeter of the Cam Ranh Bay.

After his twelve month tour in Vietnam, Rodney returned to the United States. For his service as a Specialist 4, Rodney was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Unit Citation with Frame, the Sharpshooter Badge (M16), the Expert Badge (M14), and two Overseas Bars.

Upon returning to civilian life, Rodney worked as a laborer and carpenter, building bridges throughout the western United States. He was later promoted to foreman and superintendent of bridge projects and highways where he served for more than thirty years until his retirement.

Rodney lives in Chowchilla, California. He is a member of the National Rifle Association, the Carpenters Union, and the Bridge Builder's Association. He is also a Life Member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Chowchilla BFW Post 9896. He and his wife, Joy, have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Rodney A. Lindsay for his honorable service to our nation. He truly is a shining example of a proud American. He is a source of pride for our Central Valley and entire nation.

CONGRATULATING HARRIS CORPORATION ON THE GRAND OPENING OF ITS NEW HERNDON OFFICES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, this is a particularly exciting time in Northern Virginia's Dulles Corridor as major employers, such as Harris Corporation, look to capitalize on Metro's Silver Line extension to Dulles International Airport. As some of my colleagues are painfully aware, Washington, DC, is the only OECD capital not linked to its premier international gateway by mass transit. The Dulles Corridor is the second most important employment and investment center in the National Capital Region, generating 25 percent of all economic activity, and that's before the arrival of Metro.

Phase 1 of the Dulles Rail project will open later this year with stops in Tysons and Reston, and Phase 2 is already under construction. I was pleased to attend the opening for Harris Corporation's new office campus, which will consolidate operations from several regional locations into a site near the future Herndon Metro Station. As my colleagues know, Harris is an international communications and information technology provider that partners with Federal, State, and local governments to support our nation's military, community first responders, and many other essential public services.

Harris employs more than 1,600 people in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and this new facility will house nearly 500 high-tech workers supporting the company's satellite, defense, intelligence, public safety, and health care operations. I was pleased to join Harris CEO Bill Brown, Virginia Senator MARK WARNER, and other regional leaders in welcoming the Harris team to its new location in the heart of the Dulles Corridor in Virginia's 11th Congressional District.

Fairfax County alone is home to 10 Fortune 500 companies. Harris and its corporate neighbors recognize Northern Virginia as one of the best places in the Nation in which to do business and raise a family. We benefit not only from the jobs they create, but also from the tremendous support they and their employees give back to our local schools and community organizations.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome Harris Corporation to its new location, and I look forward to its continued collaboration with the federal government and our local community..

HONORING THE 2014 FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA, AREA HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR MILITARY ENLISTEES

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 177 Fredericksburg, Virginia area high school seniors who plan to enlist in the United States Armed Forces after graduation. These students have excelled in their academic and extracurricular activities, and I offer my sincere congratulations upon their high school graduation.

I commend these student leaders for their selfless and courageous decision to serve their country as members of the Armed Forces:

Adjare, Lester; Agnew, Chase; Ahmed-Alameldin, Mahmoud; Allen, Thomas; Allen,

Tierra; Alley, William; Ampy, Jasmine; Anderson, James; Antinori, Liam; Arndt, Clarissa; Ashton, Brandon; Bagnerise, Joseph; Ball, Jacob; Banks, Nicholas; Barger, Zachary; Barnes, SaQuan; Barr, Kevin; Bell, Cody; Bernard, John; Berry, Nicolas.

Best, Tyshawn; Blankenship, Stephen; Boardman, Catherine; Bolden, Jacob; Bonzie, Amos; Borden, Ashley; Bosford, Bryan; Brinson, Devlin; Brownlee, Cody; Buck, Jonathan; Burch, Christopher; Byrd, Valentino; Calloway, George; Campbell, Brandon; Campbell, Joshua; Cantrell, Justin; Carr, Brenden; Carter, Aaron; Cempron, Crystal; Choquette, Mark.

Clark, Regan; Cole, Christopher; Coleman, Danielle; Conner, Keyon; Cooper, Hassiem; Croce, Remy; Cyrier, Thomas; Dabney, Lynshae; Dantonio, Mark; Deluca, Erik; Demetriades, Peter; Dieckhoff, Garrett; Dodson, Bethany; Dorsey, Thomas; Driskell, Daniel; Driskill, Joseph; Dubberly, Thurman; Ehrbar, Matthew; Escobar, Jadavian; Flint, Tyler.

Fortune, D'Marcus; Fourhman, Joel; Ganoe, Jacob; Garnett-Anderson, Nathaniel; Geukgeuzian, Michael; Gholson, Khavari; Gibbs, Trevor; Gomez, Ernesto; Goode, Aaron; Graves, Crystal; Grenke, Konnor; Grier Maurice; Grizzard, Georganna; Ha, Nina; Hamilton, Corey; Hardin, Tiera; Harold, Chasitie; Harper, Ashley; Harper, Jasmine; Harper.

Kristoffer-Rommell; Helm, Cronje; Henderson, Kameron; Hoffman, Christopher; Hoo, Christian; Horbacz, Stanley; Hughes, Chelsea; Humphries, Anthony; Huston, Sierra; Hyde, Seth; Ingerman, Kedrie; Jackson, Quincee; Jameson, Aeneaus; Jenkins, David; Johnson, Samed Farrad; Jones, Angela; Jumper Martrano, Christopher; Karistromer, Stephen; Kasper, Marla; King, Simone; Kissane, Sean.

Knicely, Jacob; Kohler, Michael; Kondratenko, Joshua; Kosmoski, Justis; Lambert, James; Larkin, Olivia; Lescano Mourao, Tamara; Lockard, Aaron; Lopez, Eric; Maltais, Gavin; Manthey, Hunter; Marbaker, Candice; Marsh, Michael; Marshall, David; Matlack, Erik; Matters, Jason; Maxwell, Jasjnn; Mccoy, Ryan; McDaniel, Ian; Mcmahan, Justin.

Miyamasu, Daniel; Molina, Kenny; Money, Richard; Morris, Mason; Naylor, Ryan; Nunez, Danny; Parada, Kevin; Parker, Dwandre; Parrish, Nelson; Patterson, Riley; Payne, Jonathan; Phillips, Christopher; Phillips, Timothy; Purce, Kiera; Quetsch, Brien; Ramirez, Sean; Rappa, Matthew; Reece, Kevin; Rheinstein, Nathaniel; Riggins, Christopher.

Roach, Austin; Robinson, Sashauna; Roeding, Nicholas; Rowe, William; Sanchez, Nancy; Sayer, Michael; Schmiegel, Karl; Schulte, Lance; Seabron, D'Angelo; Shafovaloff, John; Shelton, Samuel; Sims, Adam; Sisemore, Shane; Smail, Tyler; Smoot, Kiane; Snyder, Logan; Stanley, Zachary; Stewart, Joshua; Terrado, Jayson; Tuccitto, Anthony.

Tuggle, Dominique; Turner, Kevin; Underwood, Devonte; Walker, Christian; Walton, Benjamin; Walton, Thomas; Weimer, Desirae; Welter, Morgan; White, Terence; Whitt, Augustus; Williams, Thomas; Williamson, Travis; Wooldridge, Stephen; Wygant, Raymond; Wynn, Christian; Yeboah-Afari, Boahene; Young, Derek.

These students will be honored by the Greater Fredericksburg Chapter of Our Community Salutes at their 3rd Annual Military Enlistee Recognition Ceremony on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young men and women and their families for their dedication to serving this great Nation. We owe them and the many Americans who have served and will serve a debt of gratitude.

IN HONOR OF PENNSYLVANIA VETERANS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR WHO FOUGHT IN THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor eight Pennsylvania veterans of the Second World War who fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima.

These brave and heroic gentlemen are members of the Delaware County #288 and General Smedley D. Butler #741 Marine Corps League Detachments. Although many of their brothers in arms died in the midst of battle or in the years since, these Marines and Sailors continue to carry the legacy of their brothers' sacrifices for the security of our nation and defense of freedom for all of us in this world.

Let us forever remember and be grateful for the sacrifice of these heroes of the Second World War. Please join me in recognizing the following gentlemen for their service to our country: Louis Camilli, Jack Depew, Cliff Doud, George Edelmann, Joseph Hinderhofer, Alan McCauley, Walter Tallamage and Donald Walz.

IN HONOR OF LESLIE R. WHITE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Leslie R. White for his lifetime of service to the public transportation industry, including the last 17 years as General Manager of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, called ''METRO.''

Les took the helm at METRO, which provides bus service to the very transit-dependent communities of Santa Cruz County, CA, at a time of turmoil and molded the agency into a national model. He transformed virtually every aspect of METRO's operations, from replacing an aging diesel fleet with clean fuels buses to adding routes and making existing routes more efficient to improving paratransit service delivery.

Under his leadership, METRO has grown to provide a level of service that makes public transportation in Santa Cruz County a viable alternative to automobile travel. Students from the University of California at Santa Cruz and Cabrillo College are loyal METRO riders, as are the scores of Santa Cruz residents commuting to and from jobs in Silicon Valley on the popular Highway 17 Express.

My first interactions with Les involved working together on the development of MetroBase, the agency's centralized operations and maintenance facility. The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake destroyed much of METRO's infrastructure and left the system without any adequate facilities. After dealing with the delicate task of finding a suitable site for the new facilities in Santa Cruz, Les worked tirelessly to corral federal, state, and local resources for the MetroBase project that has resulted in long-term savings for the agency.

In addition, I was pleased to have worked closely with Les on the creation of the Small Transit Intensive Cities (STIC) program in the 2005 surface transportation reauthorization law known as SAFETEA–LU. Years earlier, Les came to me with an idea to rectify an imbalance in the way that federal transit funding was allocated to smaller urbanized areas such as Santa Cruz. Now, the STIC program provides additional formula funding to communities with a strong local commitment to public transit, and over 160 communities in 45 states have benefitted from the program since its inception.

Les has dedicated his life to public transportation, and had a long history of achievement prior to his arrival in Santa Cruz. He started his career as a bus driver in his home state of Michigan and rose to lead transit agencies in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Vancouver, Washington. Joining him every step of the way was his wife and best friend Phyllis, who passed away in December 2012.

In 1996, he reached a pinnacle of his profession when he was elected by his peers as Chairman of the American Public Transportation Association, where he also helped develop the popular Leadership APTA program, which helps groom transit professionals for leadership positions in the industry.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Les for his service to Santa Cruz and congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ROBERT DANIELI

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Robert Danieli, who passed away in 1996 at the age of 76. Bob served the United States of America honorably in northern Africa and Italy during World War II and was a leader in the Central Valley.

Bob was born in Hollister, California. His family later moved to a farm near Chowchilla, where Bob attended local schools and worked alongside his father and brothers on the family farm and dairy. When his father was hospitalized, Bob ran the farm alongside his mother and two younger brothers.

In July 1942, Bob set aside his farming duties and reported for service with the United States Army. He completed basic training at Camp Roberts and joined the Western Task Force for Operation Torch, the allied invasion of northern Africa in November 1942 commanded by General George Patton.

Bob was assigned as rifleman to the scout platoon of the headquarters unit where he

helped conduct reconnaissance patrols and targeted enemy troops and armor and gun emplacements in Tunisia and Libya.

When General Patton assumed command of the U.S. II Corps, he had key elements of his former command transferred to his new command, including Bob and most of the scout platoon. Under the command of General Patton, the U.S. II Corps took on Rommel's famed Afrika Korps and defeated the Germans in two key battles.

In November 1943, Bob was injured in the line of duty. He was sent for recuperation to an Army hospital in Palm Springs, California. Following his recuperation, Bob returned to serve on limited duty and was transferred to the 9025th Technical Service Unit at Fort MacArthur, where he served until his discharge in October 1945.

During his time in the Army, Bob rose to the rank of staff sergeant and served in campaigns in Tunisia, Sicily, and Italy. He was awarded the Combat Infantry's Badge, the Purple Heart, the Good Conduct Medal, the European-Africa-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Bob spent the rest of his life serving his community with the same tenacity and devotion with which he served in the Army. He was elected to the Chowchilla Union High School (CUHS) Board of Education and the Chowchilla Water District. He also served as a Director for the Federal Land Bank and was a member of the Chowchilla Spring Festival and the CUHS Ag Advisory. He was a Past Commander and Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9896 and American Legion Post 148 in Chowchilla. He and his wife Lillian had four children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Mr. Robert Danieli, who was a shining example of the tenacity, courage, and dedication embodied by a serviceman.

HONORING MS. KATHERINE S. JOHNSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student in Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Katherine S. Johnson is the daughter of Ms. Veda Johnson and granddaughter of Mrs. Katherine Johnson. She is a native of Clarksdale, Mississippi and is currently a student at Clarksdale High School.

Katherine comes from a community called the "brick yard" which has a strong gang presence. Her phenomenal relationship with her grandmother who loved and nurtured her assisted in her upbringing.

As she entered her teenage years, she put aside the valuable lessons taught by her grandmother, and it was very easy for her to assimilate herself to what was going on in her neighborhood.

As Katherine matriculated to Clarksdale High School as a freshman, she found herself becoming better acquainted with the principal than her teachers due to fighting, truancy, and a lack of respect for authority.

However, Mrs. Katherine, her grandmother and namesake, was there at the school to check on her and steer her back on the right path.

Although behaviorally, Katherine strayed, academically she maintained very respectable grades and became a member of the Marching Wildcats. These activities helped make a difference in her maturation.

Desiring a greater academic challenge in her sophomore year she enrolled in all Advanced Placement classes which the Clarksdale Municipal School District offered. She was promoted to section leader in the school band and will graduate with the title of Honors with Distinction during commencement exercises on May 22, 2014.

The unfortunate situation is that her beloved grandmother and namesake will not be there to witness the fruits of her labor due to recently passing. It will be difficult for Katherine to bask in the glow of her well-deserved accomplishments without the major cornerstone of her support system not being there; but in her honor, she will continue to strive to be the awesome young lady that Mrs. Johnson loved, nurtured, and encouraged her to become.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Katherine S. Johnson, an amazing student for her dedication to succeed.

CONGRATULATING CARLOS HARRISON ON HIS BOOK CHRONICLING THE STORY OF HERO STREET IN SILVIS, ILLINOIS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Carlos Harrison on his excellent work telling the story of Hero Street in Silvis, Illinois.

Carlos is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, editor and author whose most recent book brought him to a small street in my district. The twenty-two Mexican-American families living on Second Street in Silvis, Illinois sent fifty-seven of their children to fight in World War II and Korea. In total, over 100 men and women from those one and a half blocks have served in the US Armed Forces. No other area of comparable size in the country has had so many men and women in uniform, and in honor of them, the street was renamed Hero Street USA in 1967.

Carlos's book, The Ghosts of Hero Street: How One Small Mexican-American Community Gave So Much in World War II and Korea, will be released on May 6th with an event in Silvis at Hero Street Park, which is dedicated to the eight sons of Hero Street who lost their lives in those two conflicts. It is fitting that he will celebrate with the community, because the story of Hero Street is not just about those who fought and gave their lives, but also about the perseverance and values of the families and community they left behind in Silvis.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank Carlos Harrison for telling the important and inspirational story of the families of Hero Street and the fifty-seven brave young men who put their lives on the line to serve their country and fight to protect the American Dream.

COMMEMORATING REPRESENTATIVE JIM OBERSTAR

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today we gather to honor Congressman Jim Oberstar, a true gentleman of the House who ably represented Minnesota's 8th District for 36 years. He was a fixture of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee starting as staff in the 1960s and 1970s, and then as a member and finally Chairman from 2007 to 2011. I was blessed to work, and sometimes ride, alongside Jim for many years.

As a tireless advocate on transportation issues, Jim earned well-deserved admiration in many circles, including in my home state of Oregon. He accompanied me on tours as an advocate for increased infrastructure investment. Jim truly understood the importance of the investment as a way to create American jobs, improve safety, and build roads and bridges to accommodate a 21st Century economy. His passion and leadership are evident in projects across the country.

Jim was also an avid cyclist, and I am grateful I had the opportunity to show him my state in 2007 during the Cycle Oregon event. He was one tough athlete, easily outpacing cyclists half his age.

Like many people in Washington, DC, Minnesota and beyond, I feel fortunate to consider Jim not only a colleague, but a friend and a mentor. I only wish he had lived long enough to share all of his knowledge with the rest of us.

My sympathy goes out to his loved ones, including his wife, Jean.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF STEWART ROLLER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Stewart Roller for serving the United States of America honorably during the Vietnam War. Stewart's commitment to the American people and 30 years of service to the U.S. Navy deserves to be commended.

Stewart was born in 1939 in Parsons, Kansas. He received a bachelor's degree from Baker University in 1961 and enrolled in the School of Dentistry at the University of Missouri, where he received his Doctor of Dentistry Science degree in 1965.

Instead of joining a lucrative dentistry firm, Stewart entered active duty just as the war in Vietnam was beginning to escalate. He completed Field Medical Training at Camp Pendleton and was commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

As part of the U.S. Navy, Stewart was assigned to provide medical support for the Third Marine Division in Vietnam. Stewart served as an assistant division dental officer and provided emergency medical aid to wounded Marines, while also performing regular services.

Stewart provided support for the 3rd and 4th Marine Regiments during Operation Hastings,

their first major operation against the North Vietnamese Army, in July 1966. Operation Prairie followed in October 1966, where casualties mounted for the medical staff. Stewart's service was vital during this operation where more than 1,400 Marines were killed and more than 9,000 were wounded.

After serving in Vietnam for thirteen months, Stewart returned to the States and served as an Assistant Dental Officer. In July 1968, he transferred to the Naval Reserve, where he continued to serve as an Assistant Dental Officer and was promoted to Training Officer, Executive Officer, and Staff Dental Officer.

In 1981, Stewart assumed duties as the Department Head for the Naval Reserve at Naval Air Station Lemoore. In the following years, Stewart was promoted to Commanding Officer for the Naval Reserve Hospital at Naval Air Station Lemoore and served as Staff Dental Officer for the Reserve Readiness Command of Region Twenty.

From July 1988 to September 1991, Stewart served as Commanding Officer for the Naval Reserve Dental Clinic in San Francisco. During his tenure, productivity per provider rose dramatically.

After 30 years of service in the U.S. Navy, Stewart retired with the rank of Captain. For his service, he was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, the Navy Unit Citation, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Unit Citation with Frame, 30–Year Naval Reserve Award, and Expert Rifle and Expert Pistol Awards.

In 2003, the Governor appointed Stewart to the rank of Colonel in the California State Military Reserve. Stewart received additional awards, including the California State Military Reserve Meritorious Achievement Medal and Military Reserve Service Ribbon.

Stewart is a Life Member of the Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9896 and a Life Member of the San Francisco Dental Society, Dental Association, and American Dental Association.

While serving in the reserve, Stewart also engaged in a private dental practice in San Francisco. He subsequently served for more than seven years as a staff dentist at the Valley State Prison for Women.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service of Mr. Stewart Roller for his dedication to our country. He is a source of pride for our Central Valley and the entire nation.

RECOGNIZING DEBORAH HERSMAN FOR HER SERVICE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the distinguished tenure of Deborah Hersman, who is leaving as Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board after serving 10 years on the Board and five years as chairman.

Ms. Hersman, 43, is a resident of Lorton, Virginia, in my district. She is the daughter of a retired Air Force Brigadier General and spent much of her childhood abroad before her family settled in Northern Virginia, where she attended Chantilly High School. While in college at Virginia Tech, Ms. Hersman interned in the office of Congressman Bob Wise of West Virginia. After graduation, she returned to Congressman Wise's office, ultimately serving as a senior legislative aide. After several years working on the House side, she joined the staff of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, where she rose to the position of Staff Director.

In 2004, President George W. Bush appointed Ms. Hersman to a 5-year term on the NTSB. President Obama reappointed her in 2009 and also nominated her as Chairman, making her the youngest person to serve in that role at age 39. Ms. Hersman has presided over the NTSB during a very active period for the organization. She has presided over a number of high-profile accident investigations, including the collision of two Metro Red Line trains, the airplane crash involving Senator Ted Stevens in 2010, and the collision between two freight trains in Oklahoma in 2012. In the face of all those tragedies, and dozens more, Ms. Hersman displayed remarkable poise and provided a reassuring presence with her calm, confident leadership.

In addition to her investigatory duties, Ms. Hersman helped to broaden the mission of the NTSB. She focused not just on what happened after a tragedy, but also what the government could do to prevent such tragedies from occurring in the first place. By focusing on behaviors that cause transportation accidents, like fatigue and intoxication, Ms. Hersman helped shape the NTSB into a more proactive organization. She recently announced she is leaving public service to become president and chief executive officer of the National Safety Council.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Deborah Hersman for her tremendous service to our nation. I commend her for all the work she has done to keep our roadways, railways, and airspace safe for all Americans. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Ms. Hersman on her accomplishments, and I wish her and her family all the best in her future endeavors.

EXPATRIATE HEALTH COVERAGE CLARIFICATION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the latest version of H.R. 4414, the Expatriate Health Coverage Clarification Act of 2014. I want to commend my colleague JOHN CARNEY on his efforts to address the needs of expatriate health care plans and to ensure that the jobs created by managing these plans remain in the United States. However, the bill, in its current form, would create more problems than it resolves. As you know, the Affordable Care Act established new coverage standards and protections for millions of Americans, including that they cannot be denied coverage for preexisting conditions nor have their benefits capped at arbitrary annual and lifetime limits. Unfortunately, the bill contains potential loopholes that could weaken coverage for many families and immigrant workers who live in the United States. While I do believe the text of the bill has been improved since its initial consideration, there is still more work to be done. According to the Statement of Administration Policy, the Administration echoes our concerns and it remains willing to work with Congress to find a reasonable solution. I hope my colleagues in the Senate will make the necessary changes in order to resolve this matter as quickly as possible.

CONGRATULATING THE BURLESON FAMILY

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brooke, Adam, and Holland Burleson of Spruce Pine, North Carolina. The Burleson family has inspired a community and proven that we all can make a difference.

On April 26, 2014, the Burleson family organized the first-annual Run for Holland 5k and 1 Mile Fun Run. They organized the race to raise funds and awareness for families with children who have been diagnosed with Down Syndrome and other special needs. There was overwhelming support in the small community of Spruce Pine, with over 290 participants and more than 8,000 dollars raised.

Inspired by the birth of their daughter, Holland, on August 2, 2013, Brooke and Adam Burleson have gone above and beyond in shining light on this issue. Just months before Holland was born, Adam and Brooke found out their daughter had a very high chance of having Down Syndrome. In the months after, they found strength from other parents in their community. The Burleson family is now reciprocating those efforts.

This family is a true inspiration for us all. They have not only faced adversity, but conquered it by helping other families going through similar situations. They have taught us that no matter what situation God gives you, He can give us the strength to overcome it.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate the Burleson family and the Spruce Pine community for their commitment to helping others. It is truly an honor to represent them in Congress.

HONORING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN FLORIDA'S PALM BEACHES AND TREASURE COAST FOR THEIR COURAGEOUS DECISION TO JOIN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES

HON. PATRICK MURPHY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 23 high school seniors from the Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches of Florida for their commendable decision to enlist in the

United States Armed Forces following their graduation this year. Of these 23 enlistees, 11 are Army enlistees, 4 are Navy enlistees, 4 are National Guard enlistees, 2 are Air Force enlistees, one is a Coast Guard enlistee, and one is a Marine Corps enlistee. These young men and women have displayed an unmatched sense of bravery and courage in their commitment to defend and protect our nation. Thus, it is important they know that they have the full support of the United States House of Representatives, their communities, and the American people. It is the dedication of these individuals which reminds us who we are as a people, and that though diverse problems may lie ahead, the United States remains a shining example of freedom, strength, and perseverance on the world stage.

The service of these young men and women must not go unrecognized, and so I want to personally thank these twenty-three local graduating seniors for their selflessness and commitment to our nation by naming them here today: Oneil Daley, Antonio Allen Jr., Juan Machuca, Mario Esquilin, Henry Thomas, Dion Yu, David Colton, Corbett Pervenecki, Matthew Connelly, Laquann Pitts, Corey Boyce, Jose Ruiz, Kristi McMillion, Selena Harrison, Ty Torres, David Tarrant-Schneiderman, Angela Fernandez, Tristan Sperling, Andrew Williams, Tyler Stewart, Brandon Hall, Dylan Reinhardt and Alicia Williams.

All will be recognized on May 8th at the Our Community Salutes event in Boca Raton.

Mr Speaker, we owe a debt of gratitude to each and every one of them and to all who defend our freedom by serving in the United States Armed Forces. That spirit of service and sacrifice is something we all can be proud of. For this very reason, it is my honor to recognize these young leaders here today.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ROBERT BUFORD ACREE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Robert Buford Acree, who passed away in 2010 at the age of 85. Bob was a World War II veteran who served the United States of America honorably in Korea and began a family legacy within the United States Air Force.

Bob was born in Arkansas in 1924. He moved to Chowchilla with his family in 1937 and began to work in farming with his father when he was only 12 years old. He attended local schools and graduated from Chowchilla High School in 1943.

In 1945, thinking he was safe from the draft, Bob married Betty and continued working in farming. A year later, he was inducted into the Army. After completing basic training, Bob was assigned to the Army Air Corps and was sent to Aviation Engineering School in Spokane, Washington, for advanced training.

Upon completion of his training, Bob and roughly one hundred Army Air Corps replacement troops flew to Pusan, Korea. Bob then joined the 40th Aviation Engineer Squadron at Kempo Air Field, north of Seoul. Bob subsequently served in the squadron motor pool.

Bob returned to the United States in March 1947 and was discharged at Camp Beale. However, Bob decided to continue serving his country and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force Reserve in 1948. He served for four years and was honorably discharged as an Airman Second Class in 1952. For his service, Bob was awarded the World War II Victory Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal.

After his separation from the service, Bob returned to Chowchilla and to farming alongside his father. In 1949, Bob bought his own farm in the Dairyland area and farmed until 1961. Bob worked for the City of Chowchilla before beginning a long career with the Chowchilla Union High School District where he served with distinction as Director of Transportation from 1969 until his retirement in 1987.

Bob and Betty had two children, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Bob passed along his dedication to service to his son who retired from the Air Force as a master sergeant and to two of his grandchildren who are currently on active duty in the United States Air Force.

In addition to being a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and servicemember, Bob was also an active member of his community in Chowchilla. He was a member of the Chowchilla Mason Lodge, Chowchilla Odd Fellow Lodge, Mariposa Odd Fellow Lodge, and Order of the Eastern Star. He was also a longtime member of the First Baptist Church and Life Member of Chowchilla VFW Post 9896 and American Legion Post 148.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Robert Buford Acree for his service and devotion to his family, community, and nation.

HONORING MS. BRITTANY JOHNSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable student in Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

Brittany Johnson is the daughter of Kennedy V. & Jean S. Johnson. She is a native of Mound Bayou, Mississippi. She is currently a student at the Mississippi School for Mathematics & Science where she maintains an "A" average. Prior to attending Mississippi School for Math and Science, she attended John F. Kennedy Memorial High School and Isaiah T. Montgomery Elementary School in Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

At Isaiah T. Montgomery Elementary School, Brittany was honored for having the highest grade point average from the first through sixth grades. While in elementary school she served as a Junior Beta Club Member and a Girl Scout.

In Junior High School, Brittany was recognized for holding the highest state testing scores for Language Arts, Reading, and Mathematics. She continued to maintain a 4.0 GPA. When she became a high school student, she was active in Future Business Leaders of America where she competed and placed first in district and second in state competitions.

She went on to compete in the national competition in Anaheim, California for Word Processing I and Senior Beta, she also competed at other competitions and the Drama Club. She was recognized by President Obama and Congressman THOMPSON on scoring advance on the subject area tests of Algebra I and Biology I. Brittany has maintained an "A" average and the highest GPA average during her tenure at John F. Kennedy Memorial High School.

Desiring a greater academic challenge, Brittany in her sophomore year at John F. Kennedy Memorial High School applied and was accepted to the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science in Columbus, Mississippi where she is schedule to graduate in the spring of 2015.

At the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science she is a member of the National Honors Society for High School Students, National Beta Club, Future Physicians of America, and Blu Diamonds Step Group.

She continues to maintain an "A" average in her courses of study.

Brittany is a dedicated citizen in her community. She volunteers in annual citywide cleanups and is a former member of the Mayor's Youth Council and participated in it by working on numerous political campaigns.

She is an active member of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, which is located in the city of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, where she is a member of the Junior Usher Board, the Youth Choir, the Youth Praise Dance Team and serves as Secretary of the Sunday School.

After completing high school she plans on attending college where she will major in Biology, to pursue her dreams of becoming a Cardiovascular Surgeon. She lives by the quote: "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing student for her dedication to education.

HONORING NORA RUPERT

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Broward County District 7 School Board Member Nora Rupert, a devoted teacher and mother and a dedicated community advocate. Her hard work improving our county's schools and bettering the futures of our children is an inspiration to education leaders in South Florida and across the country.

After Nora graduated from Florida Southern College and the Star Program at FAU for alternative education certification, she served as a substitute teacher with the School Board of Broward County and taught Language Arts and Reading at Piper High School for four years. She was elected in 2010 to serve as School Board Member for District 7 and has been a champion of education reform ever since. After adopting three children, she has gained invaluable experience advocating on their behalf through Exceptional Student Education and gifted issues in public schools. Finally, among many other organizations, Nora

is a Broward School Board representative on the Council of Great City Schools, National School Board Association, and Council of Urban Boards of Education and serves on the boards of the Coconut Creek Elementary School Advisory Form and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Education is fundamental to the long-term success of Florida and our nation. As a parent and a congressman, I understand the need to make an unwavering commitment to the education of our children. Nora Rupert has demonstrated this commitment through decades of compassion for the children of South Florida, and she inspires all of us to live by her example.

RECOGNIZING JO HODGIN FOR 21 YEARS OF SERVICE TO WOLF TRAP FOUNDATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent, Jo Hodgin, on the occasion of her retirement after 21 years of service to the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts. Through her leadership of Wolf Trap's government relations program, and her coordination of a wide range of special initiatives for the Foundation, Ms. Hodgin, a resident of Annandale, has expanded upon Wolf Trap's success as America's National Park for the Performing Arts.

Ms. Hodgin began her career by serving as deputy director for the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, now known as Culture Capital. In that role, she fostered cooperation among hundreds of regional arts organizations. She also launched the Business Volunteers for the Arts program, which forged connections between the arts and business communities in the Washington, D.C., region. The BVA program, featured in Washingtonian magazine, facilitated the completion of hundreds of arts projects, and it expanded the role of private business in the arts.

When Ms. Hodgin became director of Foundation Grants at Wolf Trap, she increased annual grants income from $600,000 to $1.2 million. Based on her tremendous success, she was promoted into her current role as Director of Planning and Initiatives. A central achievement of Ms. Hodgin's tenure was the successful management of the organization's government relations program. She has engaged policy leaders and decision-makers at all levels of government, educating them about the broad benefits of Wolf Trap's initiatives across the country. Her outreach efforts not only have secured greater support for Wolf Trap, but also helped mobilize the larger arts community to advance their interests.

In addition, Ms. Hodgin spearheaded a range of special initiatives for the Foundation. For example, she collaborated with former Wolf Trap Foundation President and CEO Terre Jones on the acclaimed Face of America series, which celebrated America's national parks through a variety of artistic mediums, including music, spoken word, and dance. The series reached a national audience on PBS, and one of its films, On the Wings of a Dream, won an Emmy in 2004.

Ms. Hodgin's three-decades of service to the arts have helped to enrich the Wolf Trap Foundation, the Northern Virginia community, and our Nation. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Jo Hodgin for her service to our National Park for the Performing Arts, and in wishing her and her family all the best in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 187 I was unable to attend.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

COMMEMORATING THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 66th Anniversary of Israel's Independence. On this day, called Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel celebrates its founding by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion in 1948. Since then, Israel has stood as a dynamic democracy in the Middle East region with its rich culture, vibrant economy, and commitment to peace.

Yet, independence has come at a great price. This is why, the day before celebrating its independence, Israel observes Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day. On Yom Hazikaron, Israel remembers all those who gave their lives defending their families, their communities, and their country. This year, Israel honored the more than 23,000 soldiers killed in the line of duty and another 1,800 civilian victims of terrorism. I have always been deeply moved by the duality of Israel's independence celebration, at once both sorrowful and triumphant, and know of no other country that combines such profound sorrow with such a festive event.

I am proud of the close relationship that has developed between the United States and Israel over the past 66 years. These ties, based on the common bond of democracy, economic vitality, and cultural affinity, remain as strong now under President Barack Obama as when President Harry Truman first recognized the Jewish State. From religious kinships to shared interests, and from military strengths to commercial relations, the friendship between the United States is unbreakable.

However, Israel continues to face serious regional threats, and these concerns are also shared by the United States. One of the largest threats to regional stability and Israel's security today is Iran. Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons and support for terrorism pose a grave threat to both Israel and the global community at large. The statements of aggression made by Iran's leaders must be taken seriously, and the international community has a responsibility to act to prevent a nuclear Iran. I have supported numerous sanctions efforts in Congress to cripple Iran's ability to develop nuclear weapons, and will continue to do so as long as Iran insists on pursuing its nuclear program.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have visited Israel 15 times as a Member of Congress, and to have called every Israeli Prime Minister from Yitzhak Rabin to Benjamin Netanyahu my friend. The United States must continue to support Israel's right to self-defense, increase its engagement in the region, and work towards finding a fair solution that enables both Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace, security, and prosperity. As Co-Chair of the Democratic Israel Working Group, I remain committed to working with my colleagues in Congress to further strengthen our special relationship with Israel.

HONORING SHANTASIA DENAYE THOMAS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a goal oriented student, Shantasia Denaye Thomas, from Crystal Springs High School.

Shantasia Denaye Thomas is the daughter of Mr. Richard and Mrs. Felicia Thomas. She has two siblings: Sha'Reika Johnson and Shamaya Thomas.

Shantasia is an honor student at Crystal Springs High School with 4.0 Grade Point Average. As a standout student at Crystal Springs High School, Shantasia is a member of the SADD Club, Mu Alpha Theta, Student Council and serves as President of Jobs for Mississippi Graduates Program.

Shantasia's leadership is well-known in her community as she serves as President of the Crystal Springs Mayor's Youth Council, a member of H.Y.M (Holiness Youth Ministries), Daughters of Esther, and Sunday school at her church, Greater Damascus Church of Christ Holiness USA.

Shantasia is also a member of the National Honor's Society for High School Scholars.

Shantasia is blessed with the gift of musicianship and she plays the piano for two churches. In her spare time she loves making music and writing poetry.

Shantasia accredits her determination and spirit of excellence to her great-grand mother, Mrs. Marie Johnson. She says Mrs. Johnson is a strong woman of God who has encouraged her to follow her heart and excel above and beyond, because with God all things are possible.

Shantasia plans on attending Tougaloo College, where she will major in Biology to become a Pediatric Oncologist.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Shantasia Denaye Thomas as a student who is making a difference in her community.

RECOGNIZING THE 23ND ANNUAL BEST OF RESTON AWARDS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 23rd Annual Best of Reston Awards for Community Service. The Best of Reston Awards are the result of collaboration between Cornerstones (formerly Reston Interfaith) and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and are presented to individuals, organizations, and businesses whose extraordinary efforts make our community a better place. I am pleased to enter the names of the following recipients of the 2014 Best of Reston Awards into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Individual Community Leader: Carol Ann Bradley. Ms. Bradley has dedicated herself to service both locally and globally. She has worked with Global Camps Africa, the Friends of the Reston Regional Library, the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, the Southgate Community Center, the Reston Community Center, the American Association of University Women, The Links, Inc., and Educators, Then, Now and Forever.

Individual Community Leader: Jerry Ferguson. Mr. Feguson uses his broadcasting skills to highlight local nonprofits. He is the director of Development and Outreach for Fairfax Public Access, which provides television and radio cablecasting services to the region. As a volunteer he has filmed and produced videos for numerous nonprofits and civic groups.

Individual Community Leader: Cate Fulkerson. Ms. Fulkerson began serving Reston as an entry-level clerk at the Reston Association and climbed the ladder to her present role there, Chief Executive Officer. She also serves as the chair for the Reston Character Counts! Coalition, chairs the annual Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce's Ethics Day for South Lakes High School, and remains active in Leadership Fairfax.

Individual Community Leader: Bonnie Haukness. Mrs. Haukness has given 40 years of service in many aspects of the Reston community. She is a board member of the Reston Historic Trust and Reston Museum, and she chairs its annual fundraiser, the Reston Homes Tour. She also co-chairs fundraisers for Cornerstones, helps organize the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, and also has led the Friends of Reston's fundraising event to send children to summer day camp.

Individual Community Leader: Davida Luehrs. Ms. Luehrs is a champion for the visually impaired. She works with the Foundation Fighting Blindness, the American Council for the Blind, and Visually Impaired People of Reston. She has assisted 14 Lions Clubs with hearing and vision screening programs for pre-school children, founded VisionWalk, and chaired Dining in the Dark fundraisers. She is also active in the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, school band boards, Reston Swim Team Association, parent teacher associations, blood drives, and meals on wheels.

Civic/Community Leader: HomeAid Northern Virginia. Members of the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association started HomeAid in 2001 to help the homeless gain stability by putting a roof over their head. It currently contributes resources to build and renovate homeless shelters as well as transitional and affordable housing. HomeAid has completed more than 70 projects and served more than 10,000 individuals, work valued at more than $10.5 million.

Small Business Leader: Brennan & Waite, P.L.C. Founding members (and husband and wife) Matthew Brennan and Carol Waite have led their firm to support many local causes, including the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, Habitat For Humanity, Let's Help Kids, the Mosaic Harmony Choir, FACETS, Cornerstones, and Leadership Fairfax. Mr. Brennan also developed a training program to help those interested in serving on county and nonprofit boards.

Corporate Business Leader: Cooley, LLP. This law firm encourages employees to give back to the community by offering paid leave time to volunteer and providing matching funds for money raised by employees to support local causes. Last year the firm contributed more than $1 million to nonprofits around the United States. The company's pro bono efforts have led to contributions of more than 33,000 hours by 466 attorneys on more than 687 different pro bono projects per year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the 2014 Best of Reston honorees for their continued commitment to our community. I express my sincere gratitude to these individuals, businesses, and organizations for contributing their time and energy to the betterment of our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF JIM LOONEY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Mr. Jim Looney, who passed away in 2012. Jim was a World War II veteran who served the United States of America honorably in the Philippines and Japan. He was truly a leader in the Chowchilla community.

Jim grew up in Puyallup, Washington, a small community near Tacoma. In 1943, after he graduated from Puyallup High School, Jim moved to Chowchilla, California, where he worked on his uncle's dairy farm.

In 1944, Jim joined the U.S. Army and underwent basic training at Camp Roberts in California. During the winter of 1945, Jim boarded a ship headed to the Pacific. He was assigned as a rifleman to the 163rd Regiment of the 41st Division in the Philippines. By the time Jim joined, the 163rd was a battle-hardened regiment that had fought several battles since their landing in October 1944.

Jim and his fellow soldiers conducted patrols and mopping up actions in the southern Philippines. He and the 163rd landed at Arara in May 1945 and consolidated the areas of Arara and Toem. They then moved onto Wakde Island and invaded Biak Island two weeks later.

After securing the islands, the Army began preparations for Operation Olympic, the invasion of the Japanese mainland. The 41st Division and its infantry regiments, including Jim and the rest of the 163rd began to prepare for the invasion. The men were issued cold weather gear for their planned landing in northern Japan, code-named HIRO, for Hiroshima. Jim, along with the men of the 163rd were waiting to board troopships for the invasion, when the atomic bombs hit Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending the war.

Jim was promoted to staff sergeant and was shipped to Japan as part of the occupation forces. Jim and the 163rd went ashore near Hiroshima a few weeks after the end of the war and saw the overwhelming effects of the bombing first-hand.

Jim returned to the United States in 1946 and was discharged at Fort Lewis, Washington. For his service, Jim was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the Philippine Campaign and Liberation Medals, the Army of Occupation Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

Upon leaving the service, Jim returned to Chowchilla where he became well known for his involvement in ranching. He was a founding member of the Chowchilla Stampede Committee and also served with distinction as a member of the Chowchilla-Madera County Fair Board for more than thirty years.

Jim was a Life Member of the Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9896. He and his wife, Annie, had four daughters, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Mr. Jim Looney for his love and dedication to his family, community, and nation.

IN MEMORY OF TIM CARPENTER

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Tim Carpenter, the National Director of the Progressive Democrats of America, who passed away this week. Mr. Carpenter will be remembered as a passionate and highly effective advocate for jobs, justice, and peace. Driven by compassion and a limitless commitment to strengthening our democracy, Mr. Carpenter built and sustained a national grassroots network that has been at the forefront of efforts to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, enact single-payer healthcare, end mass criminalization, strengthen voting rights, pass meaningful campaign finance reform, stop global warming, and realize the vision of a full employment society. Mr. Carpenter was a deep believer in participatory democracy, and—in building an organization that empowers citizens to both locally and global to affect positive change—he embodied the principles he cherished.

An inquisitive mind and an extraordinary advocate, Mr. Carpenter travelled from coast to coast, meeting with Americans to learn about their struggles with unemployment, lost healthcare, polluted air and water, denied access to the polls, and injuries suffered on the battlefield. The coalition he assembled to address these injustices is diverse and extraordinarily engaged. Their work—facilitated by Mr. Carpenter—has been indispensable to

generating progress for struggling people and our planet. I am extraordinarily grateful for his contributions to our nation and world.

RECOGNIZING MS. AISHA KARIMAH

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing Ms. Aisha Karimah, who today is observing 45 years in the District of Columbia at NBC4 Washington, where she has provided exemplary service to Washington, D.C. and the national capital region.

For more than four decades, Aisha has brilliantly used her talents to help NBC4 grow and has championed our city and region and its many community campaigns—Beautiful Babies Right from the Start, Drug Free Zones, It Takes a Whole Village, Make the Right Call, Camp 4 Kids, Get Healthy 4 Life, Backpacks 4 Kids, Food 4 Families, and The NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo—we can hardly name even a representative group of community causes that Aisha has not touched. Ms. Karimah is a particularly positive and dedicated role model for African Americans and for women entering journalism and serves as a mentor and confidant to hundreds of young people. She has been a wonderful friend and guidepost to me since I was elected to Congress in 1990.

As a veteran television producer, Aisha currently produces two weekly news programs: Reporters Notebook and Viewpoint. She has shared her talents by also producing programs for Howard University Television, including The Urban Health Report, Washington's Leaders and The Randall Robinson Program.

Aisha is a graduate of Howard University and Wesley Theological Seminary. She is a proud and devoted mother of two sons: Donnell, a graduate of American and George Washington Universities, and Jay, a Howard University graduate who is married to Whitney, also a Howard graduate, and a cancer survivor.

Aisha says her life's work has been a labor of love and a blessing, ''because only God could have taken a girl from the Lincoln Heights projects, having grown up on welfare and working at the age of 10 years old to a position where she has been able through her work to help make a positive difference in the same community in which she grew up.'' Notwithstanding serious illness, Aisha Karimah kept going at NBC4. Today, we bring Aisha Karimah from behind the scenes to let her take a bow for 45 years of beneficial contributions to the District of Columbia and the national capital region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Aisha Karimah for an extraordinary job well beyond the call of duty for NBC4 Washington and the national capital region for 45 extraordinary years.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4486) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 4486, the FY15 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. I commend Chairmen ROGERS and CULBERSON and Ranking Members LOWEY and BISHOP for crafting a bipartisan bill that not only provides for current and former service members and their families but also substantially addresses the veterans' claims backlog.

The MilCon-VA bill makes critical investments in our military infrastructure, housing, and services to our nation's veterans, active military members and their families. It provides $71.5 billion in discretionary funding for these programs and activities, including $64.7 billion for the Department of Veteran Affairs. It also provides $58.7 billion in advance funding for the VA in FY16.

This legislation also builds on efforts made in last year's MilCon-VA bill to end the claims backlog that continues to plague our VA regional offices, including the VA's Baltimore Regional Office. It fully funds the budget request of $173.3 million for the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) and provides an additional $20 million to the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) for digitizing records and staffing needs. The legislation also requires each VA regional office to submit a monthly report on its claims processing performance and imposes even stricter requirements on the poorest performing offices around the country. I am hopeful that these measures will be an important step in ensuring that backlogged claims are expedited as quickly as possible.

I do have reservations about a number of provisions contained in the bill, however. I strongly oppose section 411, which prohibits the construction, renovation, or expansion of any facility in the U.S. to house individuals that are currently being detained at Guantánamo Bay. And as the White House outlined in its Statement of Administration Policy, it is disappointing that this bill does not provide full funding for VA Medical Care, potentially delaying the delivery of important health care services to our veterans.

Despite my concerns, the MilCon-VA bill reflects our commitment and the promises we have made to our veterans, our service members, and their families. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA LASALLE ACADEMY CLASS OF 2015

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the future leaders of LaSalle Academy, Class of 2015, on their Leadership visit to the Nation's Capital on May 6th 2014. This trip, through the sites they will see, the leaders they will meet, and about whom they will learn, will expose them to the attributes effective leaders must possess in guiding individuals toward a value-based, common goal. I trust this trip will afford these young men and women not only an opportunity to learn effective leadership skills, but also the worth of selfless leadership to themselves, their school, community, and nation.

LaSalle Academy of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania has inculcated a robust value set in its curriculum and has readied these young men and women for this leadership role. Knowing they are our leaders of tomorrow, I and the teachers and staff at LaSalle Academy are happy to have provided them the opportunity to see leadership in action in our nation's capitol.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate these students on their interest in our government and in becoming inspirational leaders. Please join me in wishing them every success in their future endeavors.

HONORING NEKIAYA JACKSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Nekiaya Jackson, who is an extraordinary student, athlete, and member of society.

Nekiaya Jackson was born in Greenwood, MS on August 19, 1996. She is the proud daughter of Amy Perkins and Michael Jackson. Starting from a young age, she was always excited about learning. She read, wrote, and often inquired about subjects that were far beyond her level. She was named ''gifted'' and was placed in an accelerated learning program in the second grade. Her thirst for knowledge and adventurous spirit led to excellence in all subjects throughout elementary school, middle school, and high school.

Nekiaya is currently a senior honor student at Greenwood High School where she is involved in numerous clubs and organizations. Some of these include: Beta Club, National Honor Society, and the math society—Mu Alpha Theta.

Nekiaya is the President of the Skills USA organization and a member of its Opening and Closing Team, which has placed 1st place two years and will go on to the National Skills USA Competition in Kansas City and represent Skills USA as a 1st place winner for the state of Mississippi. As a member of the Youth Advisory Council, she volunteers monthly at Golden Age Nursing Home to engage its residents in various activities. She is also a four

year Letterman of Greenwood High school's track, basketball, and softball teams.

Nekiaya is employed by Greenwood Public Schools as a Student Office Clerk at Greenwood High School. She serves in the Principal's office under Mr. Percy Powell.

Nekiaya is an active member in her community through various volunteer organizations. She is a member of Greenwood Leflore Public Library's Teen Advisory Group, where they organize many holiday events for children. She has participated in the Walk for Alzheimer's and 300 Oaks Race and served at the Greenwood Community Kitchen and the Food Pantry.

After graduating from Greenwood High School, Nekiaya plans to attend Mississippi State University and major in Aerospace Engineering. Her "Super Plan" as she calls it, is to work for NASA.

Her favorite quote comes from one of her heroes: "What we find is that if you have a goal that is very, very far out, and you approach it in little steps, you get there faster. Your mind opens up to the possibilities."—Mae C. Jemison. She says that this is one of the things that keeps her motivated and on the track traveling toward her dreams and aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a student extraordinaire, Ms. Nekiaya Jackson for her dedication to excellence in and out of the classroom.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DAVID SCHOOLEN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. David Schoolen for his honorable service to the United States of America.

In 1940, David was born in Des Moines, Iowa. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1963 and graduated from Navy boot camp at the U.S. Navy Training Center in Great Lakes, Illinois.

Because of his high score on the aptitude test, David was selected to undergo highly specialized training at the Submarine School in New London, Connecticut. He successfully completed the basic course and continued on to receive specialized training in electronics followed by additional training at the Naval Nuclear Power School.

After his training, David reported aboard the USS *Tecumseh*, a ballistic missile submarine. The submarine had two crews, a Blue Crew and a Gold Crew, that alternated onboard the ship's deterrent patrols during the Cold War. David was part of the Gold Crew, which was made up of 133 enlisted men and 14 officers. The Tecumseh completed 21 patrols in the Pacific including patrols in the Gulf of Tonkin, the North China Sea, and the South China Sea during the Vietnam War.

David re-enlisted in the Navy and completed further training in gas, wielding, burning, and brazing. He also completed training in electronic test equipment operation, hydrogen detection, damage control, and noise and vibration measurement. David became an Electrician's Mate 1 and served in the capacity of a Nuclear Power Propulsion Plant Operator.

After four tours with the Gold Crew onboard the USS *Tecumseh*, David served as an instructor at the Nuclear Power Prototype (Operational) School for three years.

In January 1971, David was honorably discharged after more than seven years of service. Mr. David was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Dolphins Badge of the Submarine Service.

David is a Life Member of Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9896. He is also active in the community of Chowchilla as a deacon in El Nido Missionary Church. He and his wife, Dorothy, have three children and one grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the honorable service of Mr. David Schoolen. We must thank him for his unwavering commitment to protecting the citizens of the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF LOUISE ARCHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Louise Archer Elementary School in Vienna, Virginia. The history of this school from its first days as a one-room schoolhouse for African American children to the present time with a diverse student body and advanced academic programs in many ways mirrors the history of the entire Northern Virginia region.

The school is named after Louise A. Reeves Archer who was born on October 23, 1883. She grew up in North Carolina, attended Livingstone College, taught school in Southampton County, and moved to Washington, D.C. in 1922. Her life's work was the education of African American children.

In 1922, Mrs. Archer became teacher and principal for a one-room, segregated school in Vienna known as the Vienna Colored School. Devoted to her students, she often transported children to school herself. She organized a Parent-Teacher Association to raise funds for supplies and a new building, which opened on its current site in 1939 with three rooms. In 1941 students, parents, and faculty raised $300 to pay for a music teacher, bus expenses, kitchen supplies, and electric lights.

In addition to the academic curriculum, Mrs. Archer taught sewing, cooking, music, gardening and poetry to her students in fifth through seventh grade, which was then the highest level of public education available to African Americans in the county at that time. She was a highly respected educator who taught the value of discipline, respect, and other important life skills that would serve her students throughout their lives.

Mrs. Archer was also active in the community at large. She served on the board of the Washington Conservancy of Music, participated in the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, and established one of Fairfax County's earliest 4–H Clubs for African Americans, among other activities.

After Mrs. Archer's death on April 1, 1948, the community felt the importance of having a memorial in her honor. In response to a petition, the school board changed the school's name to Louise Archer Elementary in 1950.

Today, inspired by the school's namesake, the faculty and staff of Louise Archer Elementary School create an educationally stimulating, and supportive learning environment so students can grow academically, socially, and emotionally in preparation for becoming motivated, confident, and respectful members of the community. As part of the 75th anniversary events, the school will become home to a temporary historical museum containing artifacts from the school's founding as well as contemporary displays made by current students.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the commemoration of this significant anniversary and the contributions of Mrs. Louise Archer to the educational development of African American children in Fairfax County.

RECOGNIZING THE FINALISTS SELECTED IN THE 24TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS ART COMPETITION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to recognize the following high school students from the 24th Congressional District of Texas who were selected as finalists in the Congressional Art Competition. Of the 179 pieces entered in 24th District, only 32 students were selected as finalists.

Student, Title of the Artwork:

Emily Buckland, The Birds Are Singing.
Purujit Chatterjee, Portrait of Mother Teresa.
Eunice Choe, Blue Bird.
Lovell Cox, Jungle.
Erin Crumpler, Poison Dart Frogs.
Nicole Crumpler, The Power of Perception.
Amie Deng, Magnolia Warbler in Orchids.
Laura Gao, Little Italy.
Greg Garza, Viper.
Sophia Glasser-Kerr, Winter Landscape.
Kelsie Harshaw, On the Edge.
Rebecca Hopkins, Intaglio Monoprint Beach Scene.
Madeline Huang, Purple Twilight.
Diane Huynh, Afterlife.
Heather Jang, Abstract Study.
Esther Jeon, Self Portrait with a Fan.
Rebecca Kim, Happy Beginnings.
Yvonne Kim, Intrusion.
Min Sun Lee, First Step Towards Independence.
Sooin Lim, Garlic.
Ahona Mukherjee, Main Cabin Under an Aurora Streak.
Olivia Najera, Tiger at Water.
Lauren Oney, Red.
Jeongho Park, The Hug.
JC Patino, Arabian Allure.
Fabiana Perez, Self Portrait.
Yu Jin Rim, The Lamp.
Nicole Schifferdecker, Beginning To End.
Caitlyn Shannon, Gradient.
Duc Tran Nguyen, Ice.
Kailey Visoski, 'Merica.
Katy Yut, Prayer.

The art competition was represented by many different high schools in the 24th District. I am honored at this time to acknowledge

the participating schools and the art teachers who helped facilitate the process by assisting their students.

High School, Art Teacher:

Carroll Senior High School, Eric Horn & Summer Neimann.

Carrollton Christian Academy, Holly Hendrix.

Coppell High School, Tamera Westervelt.

Creekview High School, Bob Thomas.

Grapevine High School, Jeff Nisbet.

The Hockaday School Jack E., Janet Yoshii-Buenger.

Newman Smith High School, Keith Mueller.

Parish Episcopal School, Beka Johnson.

Prestonwood Christian Academy, Brenda Robson.

Ranchview High School, Erin West.

Jack E. Singley Academy, Amy Moore.

St. Mark's School of Texas, Max Wood.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these exceptional high school artists on becoming finalists in the 24th Congressional District of Texas Art Competition.

TO RECOGNIZE NONIE DARWISH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of and appreciation for Nonie Darwish.

In 1949, Nonie Darwish was born in Egypt—the Muslim daughter of a lieutenant general in the Egyptian Army. Today, she is a champion for equality and respect of women within the Islamic culture in which she grew up.

After coming to America in the late 1970's she became an outspoken advocate for human rights around the world—including in the Middle East-region—and has voiced her support for a strong and sovereign Israeli-state. Her unique life story has led her to become one of the most fascinating and passionate women in our society, and has helped her pen three nationally recognized books.

It is a great honor that Ms. Darwish is speaking in my district—bringing her exceptional message of equal rights and a world free of hate to an audience in Bucks County.

It is of note that her address comes in Washington's Crossing—just miles from the location of one of the most crucial points in American history. When General Washington crossed the frozen Delaware more than two centuries ago, he was battling for a government that respected the inalienable rights of the individual—regardless of race, creed, gender or religion. Ms. Darwish's message rings true with the values fought for on that ground.

I wish to thank Nonie Darwish for her life of leadership and for her coming visit to my district.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ERIC CROWNOVER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Eric Crownover, who served honorably as a Marine during the Iraq War. Eric's commitment and dedication to ensuring the safety of the American people deserves to be commended.

Eric was born in Chowchilla and attended Chowchilla High School. In 1997, he graduated and soon after enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps.

After completing boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Eric completed the School of Infantry Training course and was designated as an infantryman. He qualified as Expert on the M–16 rifle and reported to Company F, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment at Camp Pendleton.

Eric quickly advanced in rank and military proficiency. He completed the Machine Gunners Course and became involved in the USMC Mixed Martial Arts. Eric decided to reenlist and remained in the 1st Marines.

In January 2003, the 1st Marines were deployed to Iraq as part of Regimental Combat Team 1, a combined task force of 5,000 men. Eric and his fellow Marines fought their way from Kuwait to Baghdad, with actions at An Nasariyah, Al Kut, and Baghdad.

After the fall of Baghdad, Eric and the regiment conducted security and stability operations in Baghdad and Al Hillah. He returned to Camp Pendleton in the summer of 2003, where he completed Martial Arts Grey Training. Later in 2003, Eric returned to Iraq for a second tour and was in combat in Fallujah and Ramadi.

In addition to his service in Iraq, Eric also spent several months in Afghanistan fighting the Taliban and insurgent forces. He eventually returned to Camp Pendleton where he joined Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. He continued with the USMC Mixed Martial Arts and earned a brown belt.

Eric became a CST instructor and was selected for the Sergeant's Course. After completing the course, he was promoted to sergeant. During his off-duty hours, Eric took courses in criminal justice at Saddleback College, Mission Viejo.

In February 2006, Sergeant Eric L. Crownover received an honorable discharge from the United States Marines Corps. For his service, he was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon with one star, Presidential Unit Citation, the Good Conduct Medal with one star, the Iraq Campaign Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, and Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Letter of Commendation, and Letter of Appreciation. He was also awarded the Expert Rifleman's Badge and a Brown Belt in Mixed Martial Arts.

Eric has three children and lives in Merced, California. He is a Life Member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Chowchilla Post 9896.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Eric Crownover for his honorable service to our great nation and wishing him the best of luck and health in his future endeavors.

HONORING WILLIAM (BILL) DESHUN ROBINSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William D. Robinson, who is a motivated Greenwood High School student, athlete, and citizen of Leflore County.

William (Bill) D. Robinson was born in Greenwood, Mississippi on October 11, 1994. At the age of four, his mother and he moved to Michigan where he attended public and charter schools. Even at a young age, his peers noticed that he had leadership potential and the academic motivation to excel. He was voted "Most Likely to Succeed".

After living in Michigan for five years, his mother moved his family back to Greenwood. His brother, two sisters and he were excited to be back home with their family and friends. Bill continued to love learning and enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

In school his academic success was recognized by being named to the Greenwood High School Honor Roll, being honor Mr. William D. Robinson, who is a elected treasurer of the GHS Beta Club, and motivated Greenwood High School student, being chosen Student of the Month by his teachers.

Sports have been a passion for him throughout his middle school and high school years. Through the Greenwood High School football team, he has been named 2nd Team All-Commonwealth Defensive End and has twice been a member of the 4A District Championship team. He also participates in the GHS Track and Field Team.

As an employee of Greenwood Market Place, he has been promoted as Student Produce Manager. In his job, Bill manages department inventory and maintains product quality.

Bill participates in many school and community organizations. He is a member of the GHS Youth Advisory Council, the SkillsUSA organization, and the Distinguished Gentlemen of Maroon and White. He serves on the Teen Advisory Group of the Greenwood Leflore Library, was recognized as the Rotary Club Student of the Month for January. He often volunteers at the Golden Age Nursing Home.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an exemplary young man, Mr. William D. (Bill) Robinson, someone who balances academic success, life skills, and good citizenship.

RECOGNIZING THE CAMELOT COMMUNITY PATROL (NWP)

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Camelot Community Patrol Neighborhood Watch Program, CNWP, of Fairfax County, Virginia, and join the community in celebrating the Watch's 35th anniversary.

Neighborhood Watch is one of the oldest and best-known crime prevention efforts in North America. In the late 1960s, an increase in crime heightened the need for a prevention initiative focused on residential areas and involving local citizens. The National Sheriffs' Association, NSA, responded, creating the National Neighborhood Watch Program in 1972 to assist citizens and law enforcement.

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, strengthening and securing communities became more critical than ever.

Neighborhood Watch programs have responded to the challenge, expanding beyond their traditional crime prevention role to help neighborhoods focus on disaster preparedness, emergency response, and terrorism awareness.

While every Neighborhood Watch program in the country deserves our recognition and appreciation, the Camelot Neighborhood Watch Program stands out as one of the best in the Nation. The CNWP is the oldest, continuously active Neighborhood Watch in the United States. In the 35 years since its inception, the CNWP has achieved great success, helping lower the general crime rate in its community. Boasting the largest number of volunteers in Northern Virginia, the CNWP is the ''eyes and ears'' of local law enforcement, informing the authorities of suspicious activities and giving their neighbors peace of mind.

Those who take the time to cast a watchful eye on their surroundings ensure a safer, friendlier place to live. Through committed neighborhood watch, CNWP participants have proven that community involvement can and does make a difference. In 2013, the CNWP volunteers conducted 599 patrols totaling 763 hours. There are 50 active patrollers, each of whom volunteered an average of 64 hours per month.

One of the greatest assets of the CNWP is its ability to bring neighbors together. In that spirit I am proud to recognize Mr. Paul Cevey, CNWP founder and coordinator for the first 12 years; Mr. Dave Shonerd, who for the next 11 years continued to mold the program into the great success it is today; and Mr. Frank Vajda who continues the great CNWP tradition.

Years of CNWP success have merited several notable accolades. The Fairfax County Mason District Police Department has recognized the CNWP as one of the most effective crime reduction units in the county. In fact, Camelot is one of the most crime-free communities in Fairfax County and the CNWP deserves much of the credit. The Virginia Crime Prevention Association has also recognized the CNWP as the Best Neighborhood Watch in Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the Camelot Neighborhood Watch Program for 35 years of dedicated service to its community. Programs like the CNWP are vital in our efforts to combat crime. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the CNWP's past accomplishments and in wishing the program continued success in the many years to come.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Calvary Baptist Church of San Diego on its 125th anniversary and to recognize its long service to the African American community. Calvary Baptist Church of San Diego was one of the first African American Baptist churches in San Diego to address the emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of the African American community.

Throughout the years, Calvary Baptist Church has honored its history through faith, forgiveness, fellowship, friendship, and family and community union. As it did 125 years ago, Calvary Baptist Church continues to support the emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of the African American communities throughout San Diego.

Calvary Baptist Church of San Diego has prospered, reaching new heights physically, financially, and spiritually. I would like to commend Calvary Baptist Church of San Diego on their 125th anniversary and thank them for their enormous contributions to our community.

ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, this year, we celebrate 66 years of Israeli independence as well as over six decades of steadfast friendship between Israel and the United States.

When President Truman recognized the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, only eleven minutes after David Ben-Gurion declared independence, the United States became an unwavering supporter of the Jewish state.

Israel is now our strongest ally in the Middle East as well as the longest-standing democracy in the region. It's a partnership based on shared values and common goals.

That is why the United States will continue to be the greatest force against efforts to delegitimize Israel in the international community as well as the greatest advocate for a lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians and recognition of Israel by all of her neighbors.

Together, we will continue our efforts to turn these goals into a reality.

I join all Israelis in celebrating this year's Yom Ha'atzmaut.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was $10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is $17,468,093,940,076.33. We've added $6,841,216,891,163.25 to our debt in 5 years. This is over $6.8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF JACKY PARKS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jacky Parks for being honored as the 2014 Labor Leader of the Year by the Fresno, Madera, Tulare, and Kings Central Labor Council. The outstanding contributions he has made to the law enforcement community in Fresno and the entire San Joaquin Valley must be commended.

Jacky was born and raised in Oakdale, California. Upon graduating from Oakdale High School in 1983, Jacky went on to attend Merced Community College where he majored in criminal justice.

In 1985, Jacky was hired by the State of California and began his career as a peace officer. Throughout his law enforcement career of nearly three decades, Jacky has served as a patrol officer, field training officer, narcotic detective, and street violence detective. For the past 19 years, Jacky has been with the City of Fresno Police Department.

In October 2004, Jacky's peers elected him to be president of the Fresno Police Officer's Association (FPOA), a position he has held for a record five consecutive terms. As president, Jacky serves as the lead negotiator for the FPOA Basic and Management Units. He coordinated and participated in a successful campaign to defeat California Propositions 74, 75, 76, and 77, and joined forces with local labor leaders to successfully defeat the City of Fresno's Measure ''G.''

In addition to serving as President of FPOA, Jacky serves in other leadership positions. Jacky is a member of the City of Fresno Health and Welfare Trust, and he sits on the executive committee and board of directors of the Peace Officer Research Association of California (PORAC). Jacky is a terrific representative for the Fresno Police Department and regularly participates in community events and town hall meetings. In addition, he is active in educating law enforcement labor groups around the state and nation.

Throughout his career, Jacky has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to service. In 1989, Jacky left the World Series baseball game to work with the California State Police in assisting citizens affected by the 1989 San Francisco earthquake. He also served as a street violence detective investigating the Marcus Wesson homicide case which resulted in a successful prosecution and conviction.

Because of Jacky's efforts, he has been the recipient of several awards presented by the Fresno Police Department including: a Life Saving Medal, the Fresno Police Department Nominee Rookie of the Year award, and the Southeast District Police Officer of the Year award. Jacky also received a special recognition award at the 2008 PORAC Conference for his dedication and efforts to promoting the goals of the organization.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Jacky Parks for his service and commitment to our community. His hard work and dedication to ensuring public safety is greatly appreciated.

HONORING CALEB ROBINSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, Caleb Robinson, a

goal oriented student at Madison S. Palmer High School. Caleb Robinson is the son of Allen and Josephine Sanders of Falcon, MS and a member of the 2014 senior class.

Caleb Robinson is an office aide, English II peer tutor, and an honor student. He participated in the Breast Cancer Awareness and the Say No To Drugs walks, volunteers at helping the Mid-South Food Bank hand out food to the needy in Quitman County and is a trainer for the athletic director.

Caleb has scored a 20 on his ACT, completed the admission process and has been accepted to MS Valley State University and to University of Mississippi. He is continually applying for scholarships to assist him financially.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Caleb Robinson, as a student who is goal oriented and is making a difference in his community.

RECOGNIZING LEO SCHEFER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE WASHINGTON AIRPORTS TASK FORCE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues, Representatives WOLF and MORAN, to recognize Leo J. Schefer on the occasion of his retirement after serving more than 25 years as President of the Washington Airports Task Force. Mr. Schefer was a founding member of the Task Force, and during his distinguished career, both he and the Task Force have been instrumental in collaborating with the residents, employers, and elected leaders throughout the National Capital Region to promote growth at the two major airports and to foster economic development benefitting the entire region.

A native of the United Kingdom, Mr. Schefer was trained as an aeronautical engineer with the well-known airplane manufacturer Vicker's Armstrong Aircraft. He also worked for the aviation company BAE, formerly British aerospace, and played a role in its growth here in the U.S. during the 1980s. Mr. Schefer also helped introduce the first jet service to some of our nation's smaller airports, to secure U.S. landing rights for the Concorde supersonic transport, and to facilitate Europe's participation in the NASA Space Shuttle program.

Through his work with the Task Force, Mr. Schefer has worked tirelessly to promote the interests of Washington National Airport and Dulles International Airport. Those efforts have supported increased competition among the airlines and a 50 percent increase in passenger trips at National Airport. The growth at Dulles, which had been underutilized, has been more dramatic during that time. When the Task Force began, total passenger trips totaled 2.6 million with just 362,000 international passengers annually. Thirty years later, international trips totaled nearly 7 million with total passengers topping 22 million. Without question the Task Force, and Mr. Schefer's dogged yet gentlemanly efforts, have played a key role in that success.

During Mr. Schefer's tenure, the Task Force was actively engaged in fostering the bilateral Open Skies agreements with Canada and the European Union, which have increased international passenger travel and economic development opportunities. The Task Force also collaborated with the regional Congressional delegation and local leaders following the terrorist attacks of 9/11 to re-open National Airport. It also worked with the Smithsonian Institution, the aviation industry, and regional leaders to lure the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, the National Air and Space Museum's spectacular second facility, to Dulles International Airport.

In addition, the Task Force and Mr. Schefer have been key partners in the efforts to build public support for and advance the Dulles Rail project. Washington, D.C., is the only OECD capital to not have a mass transit connection to its premier international gateway. We are pleased to report the first phase that project will open later this year, nearly 50 years after it was first envisioned, and we look forward to joining Mr. Schefer for its inaugural voyage.

Mr. Schefer's many contributions to our region and the aviation industry have been recognized by the National Aeronautical Association, the Smithsonian Institution, the Top-Side Aviation Club, Aviation Week, and leading organizations from across the National Capital Region.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in thanking Mr. Schefer for his invaluable contributions to the aviation industry and the National Capital Region and in wishing him well in his retirement. We have every confidence that through his leadership, the Task Force is well positioned to continue as a strong partner for the region's airports and our economy for many years to come.

RECOGNIZING 2014 ST. CLOUD CHAMBER AWARD WINNERS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year, the Family Owned Business of the Year, and the Business Central Mark of Excellence-Emerging Entrepreneurs. These individuals stand out to the Chamber as "those who have the courage to aspire to a higher level" as business owners and community members.

Jim Kruze and Melissa Kelley of J. F. Kruze Jewelers were awarded the 2014 St. Cloud Area Chamber Small Business of the Year. Though he never intended to own a jewelry store, Jim learned early on that he had a knack for sales and found himself eager to learn more about the jewelry industry. Fourteen years after returning to the business, Jim and his daughter, gemologist and co-owner Melissa Kelley, have doubled the size of their original store and specialize in custom jewelry.

The St. Cloud Area Chamber Family Owned Business of the Year is awarded to Pat and Paul Duininck of Royal Tire. Founded in 1948, Roger Duininck acquired the store in 1987 and raised his sons, Pat and Paul, with the family business, which provides retail and commercial tire sales, service, and repair and operates two retreading plants in Minnesota. Since Pat and Paul joined the family business, (1979 and 1984 respectively) it has tripled in size from 100 employees and 12 stores in Central Minnesota to 300 employees and 26 stores, covering an area from Rochester, MN to Williston, ND to Virginia, MN. With the 2013 purchase of their 3rd manufacturing plant in Rochester, MN, Royal Tire is ready to provide quality service to another community far into the future.

The Business Central Mark of Excellence-Emerging Entrepreneurs's inaugural recipients are the six second-generation co-owners of Midwest Machinery, Co.: Ben and Andrew Swenson; Brian, Corey and Adam Weber; and Paul Seipel. Originally a merger of eight separate John Deere locations into one company, Midwest Machinery's focus on strong and skillful management has paid off. With four new stores last year, the business now boasts an impressive 13 locations. Not bad for a team of owners all under the age of 40!

The St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce made a great decision in highlighting the owners and managers of J. F. Kruze Jewelers, Royal Tire and Midwest Machinery, Co. as this year's winners. They not only provide a quality service to their customers and boost the local economy, they also serve as a notable example to their communities of the importance of family-owned and small businesses—they are lifeblood to our beloved state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body join with me in honoring J. F. Kruze Jewelers, Royal Tire and Midwest Machinery, Co. for their accomplishments and their invaluable contributions to the state of Minnesota.

HONORING KIRSTEN FENTZ

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kirsten Fentz, who was one of four National Finalists for the John Cauble Award for Outstanding Short Play. This award recognizes one or more outstanding scripts each year for presentation at the Kennedy Center American College Festival in Washington, D.C.

Kirsten's play, The Last Sunrise, was selected out of plays submitted from across the country. Being a finalist for this competitive award demonstrates Kirsten's extraordinary talent and hard work and commitment to excellence. As the youngest finalist and only undergraduate to receive this honor, her accomplishment is all the more impressive. In Washington, D.C., Kirsten served as an excellent representative of Ball State University and the state of Indiana.

I ask the entire 6th Congressional District to join me in recognizing Kirsten's achievement and I look forward to seeing what this talented young woman accomplishes in the future.

RECOGNIZING PHIL LARSON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phil Larson as he is honored with

the Ag One Community Salute. Phil is truly a ''champion for agriculture'' as he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to his community and devoted his time, energy, and service to California's agriculture industry.

Phil is a longtime resident of the San Joaquin Valley. Upon graduating from Kerman High School in 1951, Phil attended California State University, Fresno and Pasadena College. He joined the United States Marine Corps, and proudly served his country in the Korean War from 1953–1956 and the Reserve until 1961. Phil earned the rank of Sergeant E–4.

In 1962, Phil began a long and distinguished career as a pest control adviser (PCA) for Wilbur-Ellis Company, an international marketer and distributor of agricultural products. He won multiple awards from the industry, including being named to the Ag Chemical Professionals Hall of Fame. In addition, Phil was a founding member of the Fresno County Chapter of California Association of Pest Control Advisors (CAPCA), where he was honored as PCA of the Year in 1990.

In 2002, Phil was elected to the Fresno County Board of Supervisors to represent District One, and was re-elected in 2006 and 2010. As County Supervisor, Phil serves on various Boards and Commissions, including: the Biological Diversity Task Force, Historic Parks Committee, Mid Valley Water Authority, and San Joaquin Water Coalition. Phil is an authority on agriculture and water supply issues. He was instrumental in developing the west side of Fresno County after the installation of the California Aqueduct.

In addition to his service as County Supervisor, Phil has been a leader in the community in many other capacities. He has served on several boards including: Kerman Unified School Board, Kerman Covenant Church, and the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. Phil has also served as president of the Fresno County Farm Bureau and as a State Director for the California Farm Bureau.

The Central Valley has benefitted in so many ways from the efforts made by Phil. His support for Ag One and Fresno State will reach new heights through the Ag One—John P. ''Phil'' Larson Endowment, which will support deserving students and programs in the Department of Plant and Science in the Jordan College at California State University, Fresno.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Phil Larson for his commitment to ensuring that the San Joaquin Valley continues to prosper and thrive as one of the nation's leaders in agriculture.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE ''JERRY'' GOODMAN

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to George ''Jerry'' Goodman who died on January 3, and who will be remembered and whose loss will be mourned in New York today. I regret I cannot be there in person to praise my friend. As a leader in the economics and business community, Mr. Goodman was best recognized for his pseudonym, Adam Smith of Adam Smith's Money World, an alias he used for his thirteen year public television program. He understood the complexity of investing and economics, and became an educator to the everyday American investor through his books such as ''The Money Game,'' ''Supermoney,'' and ''The Roaring '80s.''

Like many Americans, I have learned from and valued Jerry's timeless work. He was endlessly curious and interested in many ideas and issues. He has also been acknowledged for his particular style for presenting economic data, and his witty sense of humor brought joy to many. His talent for including humor, even jocularity, remains an Adam Smith's trademark. It is Adam Smith that we have to thank for the well-recognized story known to many economists. The story presents a physicist, a chemist, and an economist stranded on a desert island with no implements and a can of food as their only source of sustenance. The physicist and the chemist each devised ingenious mechanisms for opening the can; the economist merely said, ''It's easy. First, assume there is a can opener!'' His humor only enhanced his explanatory prose. Prior to his Adam Smith days, Mr. Goodman helped start Institutional Investor magazine, served as executive editor of Esquire, and published a popular children's book, ''Bascombe, the Fastest Hound Alive,'' which he claimed was his most widely read work. Jerry used his experience as an intelligence analyst in the Army to write about countless topics for Barron's Time, Fortune, and various other magazines.

Jerry, his charming, remarkable late wife, Sally, and I had many fascinating discussions on a huge variety of matters, always enjoyable and illuminating. I also have been pleased to work with his daughter Susannah, who leads Common Cause's national campaign for election reform, on a number of issues to improve the function of our democracy. We continue to benefit from Mr. Goodman's ability to explain complex economic data in a way that we can all understand.

CELEBRATING MORRISON R. WAITE HIGH SCHOOL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Morrison R. Waite High School in my District. The school will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary on May 10th, 2014. High upon the east banks of the Maumee River, on a bluff overlooking the very heart of Toledo's downtown, stands historic Waite High School. Established in 1914, Waite High School is an important anchor in the community and has been a proud tradition on Toledo's East Side since its doors first opened a century ago.

Named after Supreme Court Justice Morrison R. Waite who had practiced law in Toledo, Waite High School has lived up to the reputation and success of its namesake. Students achieve academic success, with many going on to post-secondary education or vocational options.

Waite High School has nurtured many of our community leaders including current Toledo Public Schools Superintendent Romules Durant, Toledo's ''Mr. Music'' Samuel Szor, Toledo Public School teacher Lucy Weaver, former Mayor Michael J. Damas who was the first Arab-American mayor elected in the U.S., Judge Joseph Flores, and Judge Robert C. Pollex to name but a few. In 1982, Waite High School began recognizing its Distinguished Alumni and has since honored 122 individuals for their accomplishments. Of these, forty have been educators. From its beginning, Waite High School taught its students to achieve and to lead. Indeed, our community has been the richer for their efforts.

The high school got its nickname, the Indians, from Toledo fire department members on the East Side of Toledo. The fire department used to break up into two teams, East and West, for an annual running and fire truck pulling competition. The East Side fire department members used the nickname ''Indians'' in the annual competition. As the only Toledo Public School on the East Side, Waite High School decided to adopt the name. The school experienced success early on in athletics earning national titles for football in 1924 and 1932. The football team played games from Maine to California. Waite has won more than thirty City League sport titles, with dozens of athletes named to All-City teams. The rich athletic tradition continues today.

Waite High School's dedication goes beyond academic achievements and athletic prowess. The school boasts over thirty clubs and organizations. It is host to three of the largest blood drives in Northwest Ohio. The importance of giving back to the community has always been a tradition at Waite. Its students are in the 80th year of providing holiday baskets for East and South Toledo families. At the end of May, the school will hold its 97th annual Memorial Day program honoring our community's veterans.

For a century, Waite High School has sat nobly on the banks of the East Side of Toledo's Maumee River. Its proud heritage and sterling traditions have held true since its opening day one hundred years ago. As it looks forward to the next century contributing toward our successful future through the education of new generations, we take a moment to reflect on its past glories. I am pleased to join our entire community in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Morrison R. Waite High School, a beacon of learning on Toledo's East Side. Onward!

HONORING THE LATE BENJAMIN ''BUD'' SPIRES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a music pioneer, the late Benjamin ''Bud'' Spires.

Benjamin ''Bud'' Spires is a lifelong resident of Yazoo County, Mississippi. He was born on May 20, 1931 to Maggie Burnside Jones and Arthur Spires in Yazoo County, Mississippi.

In 1978, Benjamin ''Bud'' Spires (Blues Legend) began his musical career with Mr. Jack Owens, who preceded him in death. Bud was famous for his harmonica and his well known song, ''Easy Riding Buggy''. Bud's legacy,

jokes, and the thought of him speaking whatever came to mind will forever live on in his family and making them laugh.

Bud was married to Ammie Lee Owens and to that union, seven children were born. He accepted Christ at an early age at Pleasant Grove M.B. Church where he was a faithful member until his health failed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late Mr. Benjamin ''Bud'' Spires for his dedication and desire to share his harmonic talent with so many.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S CENTER AND THE 28TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th Anniversary of The Women's Center of Vienna, Virginia, and to congratulate the recipients of the 28th Annual Leadership Conference Awards.

Founded in 1974, The Women Center initially focused on career counseling and seminars. Since then, the Center has expanded its services and become a counseling and resource center for financial, career, legal and psychological needs of women, men, and families, regardless of their ability to pay. The Center's staff includes more than 65 therapists and career counselors who provide a full range of services. In the past year, the Center served more than 4,200 clients and provided over 31,000 hours of counseling and services.

For 28 years, The Women's Center has hosted an annual conference. This year's Leadership Conference celebrates ''The Power to Influence'' and will focus on women's ability to make a positive difference in their communities and their own lives. Six women who have made extraordinary contributions will also be honored, and I am pleased to enter their names into the Congressional Record.

Maureen Bunyan is an award-winning, veteran television news broadcaster and anchor for ABC7/WJLATV. She is a founder and board member of the International Women's Media Foundation, a founder of the National Association of Black Journalists, a member of the National Advisory Board of the Casey Journalism Center on Children & Families, the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital Women's Advisory Board, the Advisory Committee of Women in Film & Video and Women of Washington.

Susan B. Chodakewitz is a highly recognized and accomplished Senior Executive with a track record of turning around, building and growing businesses. Ms. Chodakewitz currently serves as President of Tetra Tech AMT (AMT), which specializes in aviation management and information technology. Under her leadership AMT was named the 2010 Large Business of the Year by the FAA. She received the SmartCEO's Brava Award in 2012 and was named one of the ''2011 Women Who Mean Business'' by the Washington Business Journal.

Holly Petraeus is the Assistant Director, Office of Servicemember Affairs for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). An active-duty military spouse for over 37 years and a former Department of the Army civilian employee, Mrs. Petraeus has extensive experience as a volunteer leader in military family programs. In recognition of her expertise and contributions, Mrs. Petraeus has been awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the Department of the Army Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service, and the Oklahoma Medal of Freedom.

Linda Singh is commercial director of Accenture Federal Service's public safety business. Her project management and implementation experience spans civilian, public safety, and Department of Defense organizations. Ms. Singh manages a second career as a brigadier general in the Maryland Army National Guard in which she has served for more than 32 years. Ms. Singh recently returned from a military deployment in Afghanistan, where she served as Afghan Security Forces operations chief with the 29th Infantry Division and now serves as the Director of the Maryland National Guard joint staff.

Anne-Marie Slaughter is the president and CEO of the New America Foundation and the Bert G. Kerstetter '66 University Professor Emerita of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University. From 2009–2011, she served as the director of Policy Planning for the United States Department of State, the first woman to hold that position. Prior to her government service, Dr. Slaughter was Dean of Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs from 2002–2009 and Professor of International, Foreign, and Comparative Law at Harvard Law School from 1994–2002.

Susannah Wellford is the founder of two organizations designed to raise the political voice of young women in America. Ms. Wellford founded Running Start to inspire young women and girls to political leadership and the Women Under Forty Political Action Committee (WUFPAC), which is the only political action committee in the United States devoted to helping young women of all parties run for elected office.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending The Women's Center for improving the psychological, career, financial, and legal well-being of women and their families, and in congratulating this year's honorees for their tremendous contributions to our community and the nation.

RECOGNIZING RAY POOL

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ray Pool for the outstanding contributions he has made to the farming community in Madera and the entire San Joaquin Valley. Ray is more than deserving to be honored as Senior Farmer of the Year by the Madera Chamber of Commerce.

Ray has strong roots in Madera County. Upon graduating from Madera High School, Ray joined the United States Air Force where he developed a love for flying planes. When World War II ended, he moved to Nevada where his father owned a cattle ranch. He herded wild horses with an airplane, but unfortunately, it ended after a short time due to an accident he endured losing his leg and an eye. In 1950, he moved back to Madera where he began a lifelong journey of farming.

Ray's many accomplishments can be attributed to his determination and willingness to never give up. The first time he grew cotton, corn, and alfalfa, he nearly lost all of his money. However, instead of giving up, he worked for Cal-Air Dusters to earn extra cash. He saved enough to start his own crop dusting company, Ray Pool Dusting. As a crop duster, Ray met several farmers, and he formed partnerships that ultimately resulted in the expansion of his farm. By 1971, in addition to crop dusting, Ray was also farming 225 acres of almonds and 150 acres of grapevines.

Flying and farming will always have a special place in Ray's heart, but his achievements would never have been possible if not for the support of his devoted wife, Audrey. Ray and Audrey haven given back to their community in so many ways, and they must be commended for all of their great efforts.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to recognize Ray Pool as the Senior Farmer of the Year presented by the Madera Chamber of Commerce. Ray's success is exemplary of the American Dream, and he serves an inspiration for all of us.

IN TRIBUTE: JOAQUIN CAMACHO ARRIOLA

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the contributions of Joaquin Camacho Arriola, who, with more than 60 years of practice as a highly respected lawyer in the courts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, and as one of Guam's first Chamorro lawyers, has received the Hustisia Award. The award is given to recognize a person or organization that has contributed significantly to the administration of justice and the improvement of government in Guam. The Hustisia Award was presented to Mr. Arriola on May 2, 2014 in Guam by the Guam Judiciary.

Joaquin Arriola was born on December 29, 1925 to the late Vicente Fernandez Arriola and the late Maria Soledad Camacho Arriola. Mr. Arriola lived an idyllic, rural life up until World War II, when, along with the rest of Guam, he had to endure years of harsh Japanese occupation. But when the U.S. returned to Guam, the teenaged Joaquin Arriola took action and was wounded by a Japanese hand grenade while leading a squad of the 77th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army.

Following the war, Mr. Arriola graduated from Guam's George Washington High School and then in 1950 cum laude from the College of St. Thomas in Minnesota. Three years later Mr. Arriola earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Minnesota. He helped finance his college education by working part-time during the school year and in the summer laboring fourteen-hour days for a construction and painting company at the minimum wage of seventy-five cents an hour.

As an attorney, Mr. Arriola was admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the State of Minnesota, the U.S. District Court of Guam, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco, the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. District Court of the Northern Marianas, and the Supreme Courts and Superior Courts of Guam and the Northern Marianas.

He was also elected to the Third, Fourth, Ninth, and Tenth Guam Legislatures, where he was speaker during his last two terms of office. One of the many milestones in his legislative career took place in 1968. The U.S. Congress was debating the Elective Governor Act of Guam, which contained a provision establishing a U.S. Government Comptroller with audit authority over all funds coming into Guam. Speaker Arriola spearheaded a movement against the Federal Comptroller position, arguing that the people of Guam were entitled to greater self-government and that the establishment of a Federal Comptroller outside the framework of the government of Guam represented a step back from this goal and implied that the people of Guam could not be trusted with the expenditure of public funds. The Federal Comptroller provision was ultimately removed from the federal legislation.

In addition to his years in elected office Mr. Arriola was also Legislative Counsel and Parliamentarian for the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Guam Legislatures and legal counsel to many Government of Guam entities, including the Guam Power Authority and Guam Economic Development Authority. He served as Selective Service Government Appeal Agent in 1959, Small Business Administration Disaster Fee Counsel in 1962, Chairman for the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority from 1963 to 1964, Chairman of the Territorial Planning Commission from 1963 to 1966, and Chairman of the Board of Regents of the College of Guam from 1963 to 1966. And Mr. Arriola was a part-time Associate Justice of the Guam Supreme Court from 1996 to 1999.

In private practice Mr. Arriola is founding partner of Arriola, Cowan & Arriola—Guam's oldest established law office. His focus has been litigation; and Mr. Arriola still engages in civil trials to this day. He served as general counsel to the Bank of Guam, which he helped to incorporate, and as a member of the Bank's Board of Directors. He has also been secretary for BankPacific.

In recognition of all these accomplishments upon his 50th anniversary in practice in 2003, Mr. Arriola received a legislative resolution from the 27th Guam Legislature (Resolution No. 66). He was also honored for his service to the community with the degree of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) from the University of Guam in 2007.

Mr. Arriola was married to former Senator Elizabeth P. Arriola, deceased. Although frequently occupied with legal matters, Mr. Arriola finds time to spend with his children, Jacqueline A. Marati, Vincent P. Arriola, Attorney Anita P. Arriola, Lisa P. Arriola, Franklin P. Arriola, Michael P. Arriola, Attorney Joaquin C. Arriola, Jr., and Anthony P. Arriola, his fifteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren, often while tending to his farm in Merizo.

We recognize, commend, and congratulate Mr. Arriola for his extensive professional accomplishments and his deep personal commitment to serving the people of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MAZZETTI FAMILY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. SPEIR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Mazzetti family of Pacifica, California who for four decades and three generations has given endless compassion, countless cakes and plenty of sweetness to the community. You will not find a charitable event in town where Mazzetti's Bakery isn't providing lunch or dessert. Julie and Rudy Mazzetti personify generosity and community service.

Rudy and his mother opened the bakery 40 years ago. When Julie and Rudy married 30 year ago, the bakery expanded and then Angela, their daughter, joined the family business. The family has delighted locals and customers for far and wide with their delicious family recipes. From their pastries to their breads and rolls to their cookies and pies to their world-class Focaccia bread—just the thought of those tastes is mouthwatering. And then, of course, there are the famous wedding cakes. Last year, Mazzetti's Bakery made more than 700 of them.

When you walk through the doors of the Pacifica bakery at the corner of Manor Drive and Oceana Boulevard, you will commonly see Julie sitting with brides and grooms selecting their wedding cakes. She is wedding planner, designer and mom all in one. She is a baker with heart and modestly admits that the brides and grooms always come back to visit her.

Mazzetti's is not simply a bakery where people pick up their baked goods, it's a place where people stay, visit and discuss the latest news in town. It's a second home for many. It's also a second office for many elected officials who will meet with constituents and other members from the city council, board of supervisors and the legislature. The welcoming atmosphere sparks conversation and community spirit.

That community spirit reaches beyond the doors of the bakery. Julie and Rudy spread it wherever they go. After one of the most devastating events in our area, the Mazzettis stepped up to help their neighbors. On September 9, 2010 a natural gas pipeline in San Bruno exploded killing eight people and destroying a neighborhood. San Bruno is located in my Congressional District and the devastation of families will forever be seared into my memory. Just one week after the horrendous explosion while the Crestmoor neighborhood laid in ruins and family members were still searching for their loved ones, Julie and Rudy put on a spaghetti dinner and auction to support their neighbors. Julie went from business to business not asking 'will you contribute' but asking 'what will you contribute?' Everybody did contribute and the Mazzettis raised $28,000 in one afternoon. I attended that dinner and can't remember another occasion where I was so touched by the generosity of one family offering love and support to others.

The gratitude for this dinner from the San Bruno community is best expressed by one of the families who lost their houses in the explosion, the Pellegrinis. Tina Pellegrini, to whom Julie is like a sister, says she was still shell shocked and overwhelmed by the generosity. "Julie constantly is giving back to the community. She rolls up her sleeves wherever there is a need. She is generous of heart and soul. I love her and her family and hope they will go on forever."

Pacificans know and appreciate how invaluable the Mazzetti family is to the community. A readers' poll in the Pacifica Tribune this year voted Mazzetti's Bakery "Best of Pacifica." The Pacifica Sports Club honored Julie and Rudy for their community contributions in 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor a family in Pacifica that stands for what we value in this country. The Mazzettis are giving, loving and don't ask for any credit for their contributions, but their contributions touch the lives of residents of Pacifica and beyond every day. I hope for many more generations of Mazzettis to continue this beautiful legacy.

REMEMBERING M.J. "MAC" DUBE

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of M.J. "Mac" Dube, who passed away Tuesday, April 29, 2014. Mac, a family man, United States Marine, and public servant will always be remembered in Twentynine Palms for his hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm.

As a combat Marine, Colonel, and Chief of Staff at the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Mac served his country honorably and left a legacy for all those who will come after him. Mac and I were both promoted to Colonel at the same time, an honor I will always remember and cherish. You know, the Marine Corps has an old saying, "No greater friend, no worse enemy." This could not have been truer for Mac, he was a great Marine and his thirty years, four Purple Hearts, and Silver Star are all compliments of his extraordinary service.

Mac began his involvement with the city of Twentynine Palms in 1994 following his retirement from the Marine Corps. He held various roles including a seat on the city council and as a field representative to County Supervisor Bill Postmus.

It is with a heavy heart that I come to the House floor today to remember Mac. I join with the Marine Corps and city of Twentynine Palms in remembering and praying for Mac's family, especially his wife Patty.

Semper FI.

HONORING TONECA PICKENS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a goal oriented student at Madison S. Palmer High School.

Toneca Pickens is the daughter of Fekisha Pickens of Darling, MS. She serves as 2014 Senior Class President. She has been an honor student throughout High School. She

plays softball and is an office aide and peer tutor.

Toneca is active in the community as a volunteer helping the Mid-South Food Bank hand out food to the needy in Quitman County. She participates in campus beautification, the MS Drop Out Prevention Campaign walk, sings in her church choir, and serves as a mentor for the youth of her church.

Toneca has scored a very high on her ACT and she plans to attend MS Valley State University and major in math. Her college admission is complete and she has been applying for scholarships to aid in her furthering her education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Toneca Pickens as a student who is goal oriented and making a difference in her community.

HONORING MARGIE WRIGHT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Margie Wright as California State University, Fresno (Fresno State) changes the name of Bulldog Diamond to Margie Wright Diamond. For nearly three decades, Margie dedicated her life as the head coach to the softball program at Fresno State. Her passion for the sport is truly exemplary, and she is more than deserving of this special recognition.

Margie was raised in Warrensburg, Illinois, and her extraordinary athleticism was evident at a young age. In 1974, she graduated from Illinois State University where she played on both the softball and basketball teams for four years as well as the field hockey team for three years. Upon graduation, Margie played three years in the Women's Professional Softball League.

Margie's career as a softball coach quickly took off. She began coaching at Metamora Illinois high school, and then continued on to become the assistant softball coach and the head volleyball coach at Eastern Illinois University. Prior to her arrival at Fresno State, Margie coached six years at Illinois State University.

The expertise and knowledge that Margie brings to the game of softball goes unmatched. Margie changed the dynamic of the game during her career at Fresno State. Her leadership and dedication to ensuring the success of her teams has led to increased attendance and revenue for the university. Margie has the most wins of any softball coach on the Division I level, and she has the second most wins among National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I coaches, regardless of sport.

In 1998, the Fresno State Bulldogs won the NCAA Women's College World Series under Margie's leadership, which was the first national team title won by the university. Margie also directed the program to three NCAA runner-up finishes while leading the program to 10 NCAA Women's College World Series appearances and 26 straight NCAA postseason appearances. Earning National Coach of the Year honors, she also led the program to 27 straight years ranked in the national polls and captured 17 outright or shared conference titles. Margie has coached 16 Academic All-Americans, 53 NCAA All-Americans, 4 NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Award winners, two NCAA Top VIII Awardees, 15 Olympians, 8 professionals, and two No. 1 professional draft picks while averaging 48 wins a season. In addition, in 1996, Margie served as the assistant coach to the United States Olympic Softball National Team which won the gold medal in the inaugural year of the Olympic sport. Margie is undoubtedly a legend as she has been inducted into 14 halls of fame.

Most important are the lives Margie has positively affected through her dedication and work. Margie is a pioneer who fought for the rights of women. It is because of Margie's advocacy for equality that college campuses have grand stadiums, better salaries, and workable budgets for women's sports. The renaming of Bulldog Diamond to Margie Wright Diamond is a deserved tribute to her exceptional service at Fresno State.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Margie Wright. Margie impacted the lives of many through her love of softball and has worked tirelessly for the advancement of women's athletics in California and the entire nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF RESTON, VIRGINIA AND THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF RESTON'S FOUNDER, ROBERT E. SIMON, JR.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of America's first planned community, Reston, Virginia, and the 100th Birthday of Reston's Founder, Robert E. Simon, Jr.

In 1961, Mr. Simon, a New York-based developer, sold his family's interest in Carnegie Hall to finance the purchase of 6,750 acres of farmland 20 miles west of Washington, D.C., and five miles east of Dulles International Airport, which was under construction at the time. Mr. Simon envisioned building a "New Town" based on the following seven principles:

1. That the New Town should provide a wide range of cultural and recreational facilities as well as an environment for privacy.

2. That by providing the fullest range of housing styles and prices, housing needs can be met at a variety of income levels and at different stages of family life.

3. That the importance and dignity of each individual be the focal point for all planning, and take precedence for large-scale concepts.

4. That the people be able to live and work in the same community.

5. That commercial, cultural and recreational facilities be made available to the residents from the outset of the development—not years later.

6. That beauty—structural and natural—is a necessity of the good life and should be fostered.

7. That Reston be a financial success.

Mr. Simon and his team produced a plan considered quite radical at the time because it consolidated residences, industry, commerce, schools, places of worship, cultural institutions, natural resources, social, and recreational facilities in an integrated and independent community. Many of its features were inspired by great European cities and the Garden City movement of early 20th century America and serve as models for mixed-use development today. Indeed, the key innovation and lasting success of Reston lies in the way its buildings, infrastructure, and the natural environment have been arranged in ways that encourage a sense of community.

Reston also became a pioneer for civil rights. Although racial deed restrictions were very common in Virginia in 1964, to Bob they were "inconceivable." Many lenders refused to finance the first integrated community in the south, but he persevered despite tremendous personal financial risk. As a result, numerous African Americans and others seeking diverse neighborhoods chose to live in Reston in its early years.

Today, Reston is home to nearly 60,000 people in approximately 27,000 households as well as 3,000 businesses, several non-profits, and numerous federal, state, and local government agencies employing approximately 60,000 people. People visit from around the world to tour Reston's public art, world-class architecture, festivals, and innovations in environmental stewardship.

The socioeconomic diversity, vibrant aesthetics, economic success, and natural beauty we see in Reston today are direct results of the wisdom and courage Bob Simon brought to Northern Virginia 50 years ago. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this milestone for Reston and in wishing Robert E. Simon, Jr. a very happy 100th birthday.

HONORING THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

HON. MARK MEADOWS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Smith-Lever Act, which established the Cooperative Extension Service. The Cooperative Extension Service is a state-by-state network of educators who research and provide educational outreach to farmers and local communities. Today, it continues to address a wide range of agricultural issues in both urban and rural areas.

North Carolina's agricultural industry is very diverse and poses a unique set of challenges to our farmers. The Cooperative Extension Service's educational programs have been essential to addressing these challenges by providing the necessary research to assist farmers across the state. Their research has increased the productivity of farmers, and has allowed rural and family-owned farms to keep up with changing technologies across the industry.

The Cooperative Extension Service has also been active in land-grant colleges and universities throughout the nation. Its work promoting agricultural knowledge in young adults will help the entire industry continue to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, as the centennial date is celebrated on May 8, 2014, we should all be

thankful for the resources that the Cooperative Extension Service has provided our farmers and our communities. I am proud to congratulate the Cooperative Extension Service, and wish them many more years of success.

CONGRATULATING JUDY SHERMAN

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Judy Sherman, a diligent and steadfast defender of oral health, on the occasion of her retirement from the American Dental Association, ADA, after more than 29 years.

Judy's singlehanded contributions to improving oral health in this country are far-reaching. Those who don't know her would be astounded after hearing her accomplishments, but those of us who do know her, and have seen her effectiveness first hand, understand how she has made such an impact.

She has made a career of fighting for dental priorities, like boosting dental residencies, and was instrumental in the ''Collins-Feingold'' law which funded special state dental projects and dental residencies. She played a central role in efforts to boost dental divisions and research across the spectrum, including at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and the Indian Health Service. She has been involved in nearly every issue impacting the oral health of our children at the federal level for the last several decades.

After graduating from the University of Michigan, Judy taught junior high school in Michigan for 12 years before coming to Washington, DC to work as a Legislative Aide to Senator Carl D. Pursell. She made her way to the ADA in 1985, and eventually rose to become ADA's Director of Congressional Affairs in 2007. She was also President of the Coalition for Health Funding, which works to strengthen public health investments.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here today and recognize the achievements and career of my good friend, Judy Sherman. I will miss her constant presence, and her unwavering and loyal support. The entire oral health community will miss her dedication and commitment. We all have a lot of work to do to fill her shoes. Though she is now going to be spending more time with her husband Brad, and her two Golden Retrievers, I hope and expect that we will still see her from time to time, walking the halls of Congress, and continuing to advocate for dentists and oral health.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF TOM RICHARDS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Richards for his years of service as Board Chair of the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board, FRWIB. Tom's commitment and dedication to ensuring the success of FRWIB must be commended.

Over the past four years, Tom has worked tirelessly to carry out FRWIB's mission to be a catalyst for mobilizing and integrating public and private partners to effectively educate and train individuals with the necessary skills to fulfill employer needs. As Board Chair, Tom strives to increase the number of job opportunities available to unemployed and underemployed residents in the region. He plays an integral role in advancing vocational education opportunities directly related to job placement. Businesses and individuals throughout the community have benefited immensely from Tom's business insight and civic interests.

Tom's leadership expands beyond FRWIB. He is a leader for our entire community, and he strives every day to ensure the success of our city, state, and nation. He is the past chair of the Planning Council that developed the 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in the City of Fresno. Tom was also instrumental in the planning and funding of Terry's House, a hospitality home for families who have loved ones who are in the hospital. Tom has overseen dozens of successful projects, and he has proven to be an effective leader. He is an individual of outstanding character, and I am proud to have him as a friend for more than 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tom Richards for his service as Board Chair of the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board. Tom's vision, passion, and persistence have led to improvements in the region's economy. As Tom steps down as Board Chair, we can still expect him to be an advocate for businesses and residents throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

HONORING KHADIJAH GRIFFIN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a goal oriented student at Madison S. Palmer High School.

Khadijah Griffin is the daughter of Derrick and Cynthia Griffin of Lambert, MS. She was chosen Miss Madison S. Palmer High 2013–14 Queen and Student Council President by her peers. She is active in school in that she plays softball and was the Drum Major for the band. She communicates well with everyone. She plans to attend MS State University and has completed the paperwork for admission, been accepted, has taken the ACT and received a scholarship to aid her financially. She plans to major in Mass Communication and is a member of the High School Journalism Class and Newspaper Staff.

In the community, Khadijah has participated in campus and community cleanup-beautification campaigns, breast cancer awareness walks, worked as a volunteer helping the Mid-South Food Bank hand out food to the needy in Quitman County, has participated in the MS Drop Out Prevention Campaign Walk, and is Vice-President of her church youth department as well as a choir member.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Khadijah Griffin as a student who is goal oriented and making a difference in her community.

RECOGNIZING THE U.S. CAPITOL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 2013 MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST SENIOR DIVISION WINNER RICHARD ALEC MERSKI

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Richard Alec Merski, a resident of Virginia's 11th District and the senior division winner of the U.S. Capitol Historical Society's 2013 Making Democracy Work student essay contest.

The Historical Society is a congressionally chartered educational organization founded in 1962. Its mission is to inform the public about the rich heritage of the Capitol and the Congress. This nationwide contest is open to all students in two categories: a junior division contest for students in grades 6–8 and a senior division contest for students in grades 9–12.

The 2013 contest asked students to consider the rights guaranteed by the Constitution and the corresponding duties that citizens owe to implement and protect those rights. Essays addressed questions such as how these rights and responsibilities affect students, their families, and the importance of being aware of one's own rights and responsibilities. Students were required to cite sources such as the U.S. Constitution, books, and articles from magazines and newspapers. Entries were judged on the depth of their content, the mastery of the topic, and the skill with which they are written.

Mr. Merski is a senior at James Madison High School in Vienna, Virginia, where he will graduate in June. An Honor Roll student, Alec previously attended the Nysmith School in Herndon and Landon School in Bethesda. An avid language student, Alec was one of two students at Landon taking two languages in addition to his courses. Alec spent two summers living with host families in Spain and China in an intensive language program to hone his language skills. He was also the recipient of the Excellence in Foreign Language Award. He served as the President of the China Roundtable of Washington, an annual forum held at the Chinese Embassy allowing experts on China to address current economic, cultural, and educational changes in China.

Alec was an active member and officer of Model UN and served as the President of the Environmental Club. Last summer, Alec interned with the United States-Asia Foundation and the International Trade Commission. He plans to major in International Relations and Economics when he enters college this fall.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Alec Merski on this outstanding achievement and in wishing him all the best in his future endeavors. I am confident that this accomplished young man will be successful in whatever path he chooses to follow.

HONORING ADMIRAL ROBERT J. PAPP, JR. FOR HIS SERVICE AS THE 24TH COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representatives HOWARD COBLE, FRANK LOBIONDO, and RICK LARSEN on behalf of the Congressional Coast Guard Caucus to recognize the dedication and unwavering leadership of Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr, who will complete his tour as the 24th Commandant of the United States Coast Guard on May 30, 2014. Serving our nation faithfully and selflessly for over 40 years, Admiral Papp has led the nearly 90,000 active duty, reserve, civilian and auxiliary members of the Coast Guard through an extraordinary period in the Coast Guard's history. Both as Commandant and Commander of the Coast Guard's Atlantic Area, Admiral Papp remained focused and resolute in directing the massive response and recovery operations for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. He served as the Operational Commander responsible for the Coast Guard response in the wake of the Haiti earthquake disaster, where Coast Guard cutters were the first U.S. assets on scene to provide humanitarian assistance to the devastated country.

Admiral Papp was instrumental in raising the national awareness of the continuously evolving challenges in the Arctic, including developing the Coast Guard's first Arctic Strategy and expanding Coast Guard operations and capabilities in the Region. He has also been integral to U.S. efforts to engage with other Arctic Nations to establish international governance protocols essential to protecting U.S. sovereignty, security and economic interests as access and activity in the Arctic continues to expand.

Through his leadership and staunch support of the Coast Guard men and women who place their lives on the line every day to serve the American people, he has remained steadfast in his commitment to recapitalize the Coast Guard's rapidly aging fleet of cutters, aircraft and small boats. Often overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles in an incredibly challenging fiscal environment, he has achieved extraordinary success in building out the fleet of National Security Cutters, Fast Response Cutters, Response Boats and Maritime Patrol Aircraft. Furthermore, he has laid the foundation for the acquisition of the Offshore Patrol Cutter, which will ensure the Coast Guard continues to remain "Semper Paratus" or Always Ready, to complete its maritime safety, security and stewardship missions in our ports and waterways as well as the over 4 millions square miles of U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone around the world.

Finally, for those of us who have had the privilege to know Admiral Papp personally, it does not take long to see and understand how passionate he is about the health and welfare of every member of the Coast Guard family—his "shipmates." His focus on professionalism and proficiency and his efforts to improve access to critical family support services such as childcare and family housing have been instrumental in improving the lives of all "Coasties." His decision to protect the civilian workforce and not implement furloughs despite the devastating impacts of sequestration reflects his commitment to the concept that every member of the Coast Guard—active duty, reserve, civilian or auxiliary—is an indispensable partner in the success of the Service.

As the Co-Chairs of the Coast Guard Caucus, we are honored to join with our distinguished colleagues in recognizing the incredible service, dedication and leadership of Admiral Papp as the 24th Commandant of the United States Coast Guard. As we honor Admiral Papp, we also honor the service of the thousands of shipmates he has led as they rescue those in distress, protect our environment, secure our borders and keep dangerous drugs off our streets. To paraphrase Admiral Papp himself. "They are Coastguardsmen. This is their chosen profession. This is their way." We thank Admiral Papp, his wife Linda and his entire family for their service and sacrifice, and wish them all fair winds and following seas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 6, 2014, I was at home in Wisconsin taking care of my wife and our new baby daughter. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following ways:

1) H.R. 3584—The Capital Access for Small Community Financial Institutions Act of 2013—Yea

2) H.R. 2672—CFPB Rural Designation Petition and Correction—Yea

3) H.R. 4386—Money Remittance Improvement Act of 2013—Yea

4) H.R. 3329—To enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings, and for other purposes—Yea

5) H.R. 3468—The Credit Union Share Fund Insurance Parity Act—Yea

6) H.R. 2919—The Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act—Yea

7) H.R. 4292—The Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act—Yea

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF GEORGE NISHIO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Dr. George Nishio, who passed away in November 2013 at the age of 97. George served the United States of America honorably during World War II and was a pillar in the community.

George was born in Fresno, California, to Japanese immigrant parents. He graduated from Fresno State College and went on to complete a Doctor of Optometry degree at the University of California, Berkeley. With his optometry degree in hand, George returned to Fresno and began a private practice.

Following the attacks on Pearl Harbor, George was sent to a concentration camp in Jerome, Arkansas. Despite being driven from his home to a concentration camp, George volunteered for duty in the U.S. Army. Following basic training, George was selected for medical training. After being designated as an optometrist, George was assigned to a medical company and boarded a ship for the campaign in the European Theater.

The U.S. Army recognized George's expertise and leadership abilities and promoted him to Technical Sergeant. George would go on to serve in Europe as the allied forces fought their way into Germany. His unit received a meritorious unit citation and was designated a Distinguished U.S. Army Medical Regiment.

For his service, George received the World War II Medal, African-Middle Eastern Medal, European Campaign, Meritorious Unit Award, Army of Occupation Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

George married Michiko Saiki and returned to Fresno where he resumed his optometry practice. He and Michiko had six children in whom they instilled a strong sense of appreciation for nature and education. Eventually, George and his family moved to Chowchilla where he established a practice that still serves the community.

Believing that everyone should serve and be an active member in their community, George served as a member of the City Planning Commission, Chowchilla School Board, and was President of the Madera County Board of Education. He was also a longtime member and past president of the Chowchilla Rotary Club, and a Paul Harris Fellow.

In addition, George was a member of the American Optometric Association, serving as president of the Central California Chapter. He was named Optometrist of the Year by the Central California Optometry Association. He was a Life Member of Chowchilla Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 0896 and Nisei VFW Post 8985 in Sacramento.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of Dr. George Nishio who dedicated his life to serving his nation and community. His presence will be greatly missed, but his legacy will surely live on throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF CYPRESS WATERS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the grand opening of the Cypress Waters commercial and residential planned community. Developed by Henry and Lucy Billingsley, Cypress Waters is a 1,000 acre development on the 362 acre North Lake. It is anchored by the City of Dallas, Texas, with parts also in the cities of Coppell and Irving. Cypress Waters is in close proximity to the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and sits in the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Once completed, the Neighborhoods of Cypress Waters will feature over 10,000 multi-

family units. Currently, the Neighborhoods of Cypress Waters contain 673 multi-family units which are open for lease. The second phase of the multi-family construction will commence in early 2015 and will offer approximately 500 additional units. The Neighborhoods will be within the Coppell Independent School District and a new elementary school, junior high school, and high school will all be built to educate the young residents.

The Shops of Cypress Waters sits at the entrance of the development and will serve as a retail hub in Dallas-Fort Worth by adding 400,000 square feet of retail space, most of which has now been built. In addition, the development will host 4.5 million square feet of Class A office space which will be home to some of Texas' largest corporations. As a result, thousands of new jobs will come to the 24th District, furthering the area's resilient economic growth.

Cypress Waters also features a great outdoors environment consisting of hiking and biking trails, including a five mile loop around North Lake and connections to adjacent cities' trail systems. There are also watercourse environments and preservation areas for native species of plants and animals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in celebrating the grand opening of Cypress Waters and welcoming its new residents to the 24th Congressional District of Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 193, I was unable to attend. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING 17 PALM BEACH COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WHO PLAN TO ENLIST INTO THE MILITARY AFTER GRADUATION

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of 17 high school seniors from Palm Beach County who plan to enlist into the military after graduation this spring. Their maturity and courage are a testament to their dedication to our country, and they rightfully deserve our recognition and admiration.

I am proud to represent a district that is home to such a large number of men and women in the military, veterans, and their families. I feel tremendous gratitude to those who fought in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, and to a new generation of heroes from the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan. My father, Bernard Deutch, volunteered to fight in World War II as a teenager where he earned a Purple Heart at the Battle of the Bulge. It was his example of service to our nation that motivated me to serve in Congress.

Congratulations to Christopher Barnikel, Arturo Ipina Jr., Jose Pascual Tomas, Justin Grad, Adam Pendleton, Jason Marlin, Charles Green, Alexander Costello, Marc Velazquez, Sumer Boardman, Mauricio Alvarez, Trystan Anderson, Aprilday Lytal, Samuel Steinhouse, Elyzae Reina, Shereek Powell, and Rebecca Gonzalez for their service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN W. WELLS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of John W. Wells, who passed away on March 24, 2014, at the age of 86. John was a community leader in the City of Madera, and his unwavering service will be greatly missed.

John spent much of his life in Madera County. He was born to John and Mary Wells, and grew up in a large family with eight siblings. In 1947, he graduated from Chowchilla Union High School and joined the United States Army.

John served as a member of the infamous Wolfhound Division. He was wounded in action and after receiving treatment in Japan was sent back to Korea, where he remained until the end of the war. He served as an airborne forward artillery observer. John was awarded the Purple Heart medal for his brave and honorable service.

John continued his military service in El Paso, Texas, where he met his wife Bette Collins. In 1952, John and Bette married. After completing his final tour in Germany, John remained in the Army Reserves for many years and retired with the rank of Captain. John attended Fresno State College and earned his teaching credential. As a student, John also served as an officer for Madera's Police Department. He later worked as a teacher and eventually retired from teaching at Sugar Pine High School, a Madera Unified School District continuation high school.

John had a long and distinguished career in city politics. In 1964, he was elected to Madera City Council, and he served for 10 years. For part of that time, he served as mayor. John went on a hiatus from elected office, but returned and was re-elected to the city council in 1990. He served consecutive terms as city councilman until 2006. John was truly committed to serving the people of Madera and doing what was best for the city. He faithfully attended council meetings and members of the community felt they could always count on him.

Because of John's dedication and commitment to ensuring the success of young people, the City of Madera inaugurated the John W. Wells Youth Center to commemorate John's service and accomplishments. The center now stands as a fitting tribute and memorial to John's life. Apart from the youth center, John also promoted and worked tirelessly to build a skate park within Rotary Park. He was driven to serve the youth in Madera and worked tirelessly to create places where the youth could remain busy and out of trouble.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representative's to join me in honoring the life of John W. Wells. John will undoubtedly be missed by his family, friends, and community, but his legacy will surely live on.

HONORING DR. CAROL WINOGRAD

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Carol Winograd for her extraordinary career and to join J Street in recognizing her for the 2014 Tzedek v'Shalom Award for her lifelong dedication to tikkun olam, which means, "repairing the world." Dr. Winograd is an emerita professor of Medicine and Human Biology at Stanford University and currently serves as a member on the J Street Executive Board.

Born in New Jersey, Dr. Winograd received her Bachelor of Arts with honors in French at Wellesley College, and she attended Harvard University for graduate school, studying biomedical studies. She later received her Medical Degree cum laude from Boston University Medical School and attended the University of California, San Francisco, for her Internal Medicine and Family Medicine residencies.

Throughout Dr. Winograd's esteemed career, she has focused her research on identifying predictors of decline in frail, hospitalized patients, and improving their function, especially mobility. Her professional interests include geriatric assessment, Alzheimer's disease, mobility, health policy, women's issues, and a comprehensive health and social approach to aging.

Dr. Carol Winograd's steadfast commitment to geriatrics research is evident in her many professional roles on the subject. She advises students and teaches courses on women and aging, mobility, and geriatrics. She was also an Assistant Professor at the University of California San Francisco, and then served as Clinical Director of the Geriatric Research and Education Center at Stanford. Dr. Winograd served on the editorial board of numerous scientific journals and other boards. She is also a member of the steering committee of the Women Donors Network's Middle East Peace Circle.

Throughout her career, Dr. Carol Winograd has received numerous accolades for her outstanding achievements, including the 1973 Roche Award for Scholarship and Character, the Malamud Prize for Excellence in Psychiatry and General Medicine, and was a finalist for Alwin C. Rambar Award for Excellence in Patient Care.

In addition to Dr. Winograd's many contributions to her field, she co-authored the book, Treatments for the Alzheimer Patient: The Long Haul, as well as peer-reviewed more than 40 articles on functional impairment in hospitalized elders, mobility and geriatric assessment. She is also active in using art for healing, and has exhibited her paintings in numerous art shows.

In 2012, Dr. Winograd co-led J Street's first Women's Congressional Delegation to Israel. I also co-led this educational trip with Dr. Winograd, and this was truly an amazing trip due to Carol's brilliance and experience. One year later, Dr. Winograd co-founded J Street's Women's Leadership Forum to increase women participation and greater inclusion of

Israeli and Palestinian women in peace negotiations.

On a personal note, I always feel a lot of love, joy and optimism when in the presence of Carol. Her energy and her spirit inspires me to continue to fight the good fight. I am honored and humbled by Carol's friendship and proud to call her my friend.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, Dr. Carol Winograd, I salute you for your lifetime of service to the community, the nation and to the world. I commend Dr. Carol Winograd's dedication to promoting social justice causes and wellness efforts. I congratulate and thank you, for you have touched many lives in profound ways throughout your career. We wish you and your family continued prosperity and happiness.

CONGRATULATING JUDGE P. MICHAEL MAHONEY ON HIS RECENT RETIREMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge P. Michael Mahoney, who recently retired as Magistrate Judge of the Western Branch of the Northern District of Illinois. Judge Mahoney received his law degree from the University of Illinois, and has practiced law in our region for over forty years. In 1976, Judge Mahoney became a part-time Federal Magistrate for the Northern District. He became a full-time Magistrate Judge in 1992.

Judge Mahoney has left an indelible mark on our region. While he is often remembered by the public for his work on high-profile decisions like People Who Care v. Rockford Board of Education, and USA v. Rita Crundwell, he is best remembered by his associates as a mediator and an inspiring practitioner of justice, who presided with fairness and professionalism for over 38 years. At the time of his retirement, Judge Mahoney was the longest-serving Judge in the Seventh Circuit.

We will surely miss his wisdom and his steady hand, but we also thank Justice Mahoney for his service to our community, and wish him the best of luck, and a happy retirement.

HONORING JONATHAN BAKER

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Jonathan Baker, my constituent from Redondo Beach, who has been selected as a finalist for the 2014 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals (Sammies). The Sammies are presented annually by the nonprofit, nonpartisan Partnership for Public Service to honor outstanding federal employees who have made significant contributions to our nation.

Jonathan is the Delta IV Launch Systems Deputy Chief Engineer at the United States Air Force Base in El Segundo, California. At his young age of 35, Jonathan has been entrusted with overseeing the extremely delicate and expensive process of launching Air Force rockets carrying satellites into orbit. Since 2010, 13 satellites, which are worth more than $7 billion and provide important wireless communication, national reconnaissance, infrared missile warning, and precision timing and navigation capabilities, have been launched under Jonathan's supervision.

Jonathan's position requires not only a high degree of skill and knowledge in the technical aspects of launches, including making sure rockets are correctly built and assembled, but also the ability to lead public and private-sector engineers and foster team cohesion that eliminates any chance of error. Jonathan is well-respected for his leadership. He has set standards for his team by establishing a training and certification program that Air Force engineers must take before performing duties on launch day. In this line of work, there is no room for error and Jonathan has an outstanding record.

One particularly notable accomplishment is Jonathan's success in reducing the cost of a contract for 40 new rockets from $14 billion to under $10 billion. His technical expertise and incredible attention to detail has saved taxpayers over $4 billion.

I would like to congratulate Jonathan Baker on his selection as a finalist for the 2014 Sammies. It is an honor to represent him in Congress. I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating his inspiring career and in wishing him all the best for the future.

HONORING HENRY RAMSEY JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Henry Ramsey, Jr., former Alameda County judge, member of the Berkeley City Council and dean of Howard University's law school. Known throughout the Bay Area and the nation for his dedication to civil rights and justice, Mr. Ramsey has left an indelible mark on our national discourse. With his passing on March 14, 2014, we look to the outstanding quality of his life's work and the inspiring role he played in the fight for social justice.

Henry Ramsey, Jr., moved to California to pursue an undergraduate degree, becoming one of the first African-Americans to graduate from the University of California, Riverside in 1960. After receiving his law degree a few years later from the University of California, Berkeley, Mr. Ramsey started his career at the Contra Costa County District Attorney's office. Once again, he broke racial barriers being among the first African American prosecutors hired in the office.

Throughout the 1970s, Henry Ramsey, Jr. was a member of the faculty at Boalt Hall. During this time, he also served on the Berkeley City Council, working to ensure the growth and innovation for the City of Berkeley. Later, Mr. Ramsey was appointed to the Alameda County Superior Court bench before serving as dean of Howard University's School of Law from 1990 to 1996.

Throughout Mr. Ramsey's career, he was acutely aware of the role the judicial system played in the fight for equality and justice. He represented those who could not obtain representation, including members of the Black Panthers. Mr. Ramsey was committed to helping others, especially youth and seniors, and to giving back to his community.

Mr. Ramsey was keenly committed to education, ethics reform and the rule of law, serving as chairperson of the Law School Admission Council's bar passage student committee and the American Bar Association (ABA) section of legal education and admissions to the bar. He also served as a member on the ABA Commission on Evaluation of the Rules of Professional Conduct as well as on Ethics and Professional Responsibility.

Throughout his prolific career, Henry Ramsey, Jr. received various accolades for his outstanding achievements. Mr. Ramsey was honored with Boalt Hall School of Law's Citation Award, the highest honor recognizing a distinguished graduate. In 2000, he was the recipient of the Robert J. Kutak Award for promoting understanding between legal education and the active practice of law.

I met Henry in the early 1970's. I knew immediately that he was a force to be reckoned with and recognized that he understood that ''power concedes nothing without demand.'' Yet even with his brilliance and bold work for racial and economic justice, he had a gentle and kind spirit, counseling my dear beloved friend, the late Beth Meador, and me on Black political empowerment and why we must get and stay involved in politics. Judge Ramsey's spirit and legacy will continue to soar and inspire young people as he inspired me and Beth to fight the good fight.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District salutes and honors an outstanding individual, Henry Ramsey, Jr. As a distinguished Alameda County resident, Mr. Ramsey's efforts and devotion to social equality have truly paved the way for minorities and impacted so many lives throughout the nation. I join all of Henry's loved ones in celebrating his incredible life. He will be deeply missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF SISTER MARGARET GANNON, I.H.M., PH.D.

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Sister Margaret Gannon, I.H.M., Ph.D., who will retire from Marywood University on May 31, 2014. In her 47 years with Marywood, Sr. Margaret has taught thousands of students, raised the level of discourse in the community, and passionately advocated for peace, education, and social justice.

During her tenure at Marywood, Sr. Margaret contributed to multiple departments and served in a number of leadership positions. She began her distinguished career at Marywood in 1968 as an Assistant Professor of History, and later served as Chair of Social Sciences, both graduate and undergraduate divisions. In 1978, Sr. Margaret founded the Theresa Maxis Center for Justice and Peace and assumed the role of director for several years. From 1988 to 1993, she served as

Dean of the Undergraduate School for Women and established the Women's Studies minor. Later, as Coordinator of Diversity Efforts, she traveled to Japan as a visiting professor at the Takasaki Art Centre College in 1995.

In nearly five decades as a scholar, Sr. Margaret has contributed dozens of publications to the canon of academic literature and presented on a variety of important topics. To name but a few, she authored entries in The New Catholic Encyclopedia on Theresa Maxis Duchemin and the Immaculate Heart of Mary Congregation, and she made a presentation for the American Catholic Historical Association entitled "The Struggles of Theresa Maxis Duchemin: Confronting Racism and Sexism in the Nineteenth Century Church." Through her advancements in scholarly discourse and public presentations in the community, Sr. Margaret has consistently pushed her students to excel and enriched the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre area.

In addition to her academic achievements, Sr. Margaret has dedicated her life to serving her community. She donated her time, passion, and leadership to many local organizations, such as Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority, Women's Community Learning Coalition, Housing Coalition for Scranton Families, and St. Joseph's Center. In recognition of her service to her community, Sr. Margaret has received numerous awards and honors, including Marywood University's first Faculty Service Award.

It is my great honor to congratulate and celebrate Sr. Margaret Gannon on her lifetime of service to her students and community. Her efforts set a shining example for her students, her neighbors, and all of Northeast Pennsylvania.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and not present for roll-call votes 178 and 179. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both.

FOSTER YOUTH MONTH

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Foster Youth Month.

Every child deserves a healthy, safe, and stable home. Yet too many continue to go without these basic needs that so many of us take for granted. This May, we recognize more than 400,000 American children in foster care who are waiting for their forever family.

The theme of this year's Foster Month is "Building Blocks Toward Permanent Families"—an issue that is near to my heart. My parents took in several foster children when I was growing up. I was able to see firsthand the difference that this made, and some of them are still in touch with my family today.

Foster children belong to all of us, and we have a moral obligation to treat them with the same love and care that we would our own children.

I encourage all my colleagues to join me in recognizing May as Foster Youth Month.

ACKNOWLEDGING HEATHER PARTON

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to rise tonight to acknowledge Heather Parton of Santa Monica, California, on the occasion of being awarded a Hillman Prize for "Opinion & Analysis Journalism". Many in this Chamber, and untold others across the internet, better know her by her pseudonym: "Digby".

Digby, a political blogger, is the founder of the blog Hullabaloo, and has been called one of the "leading and most admired commentators" of the progressive blogosphere—by Glenn Greenwald no less, the recent recipient of a Pulitzer Prize himself.

The Sidney Hillman Foundation's announcement this evening sums up my, and many others', sentiments:

> Tonight, the Sidney Hillman Foundation will honor Heather "Digby" Parton with the 2014 Hillman Prize for Opinion & Analysis Journalism. Digby's blog Hullabaloo has been a fixture in the progressive blogosphere for over a decade. Digby has eloquently opposed injustice and incompetence on issues ranging from the invasion of Iraq to the widening chasm between rich and poor in America. Whatever the topic, Digby approaches her work with a level head and a big heart.

I will give the last word to Kathleen Geier of the Washington Monthly, "Since she's the best daily political writer in America, an honor of this sort is the least we can do for her. Congrats to Digby and to the Hillman people for making such an awesome choice. Now and forever: What. Digby. Said!"

"What. Digby. Said!",

HONORING THE OAKLAND YOUTH ORCHESTRA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th Anniversary of the Oakland Youth Orchestra (OYO). Since its debut in the 1963–64 season, OYO has a history of commissioning, premiering and recording the works of great American composers. The youth orchestra performs a wide range of challenging pieces, showcasing their work and talent during several concerts each season.

Since the establishment of the Oakland Youth Orchestra in 1963, its Artistic Directors and leaders have inspired and motivated generations of students with the highest degree of commitment and professionalism. In the past 50 years, 0Y0 has strived to promote the importance of arts education and to allow access to the arts for all youth.

Today, the Oakland Youth Orchestra consists of 88 talented young musicians, representing 46 different schools from more than 30 cities in the Bay Area. Ranging from ages 12 to 22 years old, these artists have the opportunity to learn from, and be coached by, professional orchestral musicians. The youth orchestra students have the opportunity to travel to different regions of the world, performing in Europe, the Middle East, Central and South America, Asia, the Caribbean Islands and Australia.

Moreover, the Oakland Youth Orchestra has received numerous accolades for its talented performances. For its service to contemporary music, the orchestra has received the Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music award from the American Society of Composers and Publishers (ASCAP) five times in the course of the last four decades.

As the educational arm of the Oakland Symphony, OYO is committed to serving the community and supporting arts throughout the Bay Area. OYO is a member of Arts First Oakland, ASCAP, Association of California Symphony Orchestras, Bay Area Black United Fund and the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. In addition, OYO has participated in the Bay Area Youth Orchestra Festival of Hope Concert, raising over $100,000 to benefit homeless and underserved youth.

I commend the Oakland Youth Orchestra for providing our youth with a pathway towards growth and achievement. Music is essential to student development and to our sense of identity, community and pride.

On behalf of residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I extend my congratulations on this important milestone and thank all of the many people who have contributed to the success of the Oakland Youth Orchestra. I wish OYO continued success in the years to come.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2681–2740

Measures Introduced: Five bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2291–2295, and S. Res. 438–439. **Page S2718**

Measures Reported:

S. 1611, to require certain agencies to conduct assessments of data centers and develop data center consolidation and optimization plans, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 113–157) **Page S2718**

Measures Passed:

Condemning the Abduction of Female Students in Nigeria: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 433, condemning the abduction of female students by armed militants from the Government Girls Secondary School in the northeastern province of Borno in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S2699–S2700**

The Regulation of the Height of Buildings in the District of Columbia: Senate passed H.R. 4192, to amend the Act entitled ''An Act to regulate the height of buildings in the District of Columbia'' to clarify the rules of the District of Columbia regarding human occupancy of penthouses above the top story of the building upon which the penthouse is placed. **Page S2740**

National Charter Schools Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 438, congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, and supporting the ideals and goals of the 15th annual National Charter Schools Week, to be held May 4 through May 10, 2014. **Page S2740**

National Safe Digging Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 439, supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month. **Page S2740**

Measures Considered:

Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2262, to promote energy savings in residential buildings and industry.

Pages S2681–84, S2685–97, S2697–99, S2700–06, S2707–12

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 79 yeas to 20 nays (Vote No. 131), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Pages S2690–91**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, May 7, 2014; and that the time during adjournment count post-cloture. **Page S2740**

Talwani Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Indira Talwani, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts. **Page S2684**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Thursday, May 8, 2014. **Page S2684**

Peterson Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of James D. Peterson, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin. **Page S2684**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Indira Talwani, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts. **Pages S2684–85**

Rosenstengel Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Nancy J. Rosenstengel, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois. **Page S2685**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition

of the nomination of James D. Peterson, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin. **Page S2685**

Rosenbaum Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Robin S. Rosenbaum, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit. **Page S2685**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Nancy J. Rosenstengel, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Illinois. **Page S2685**

Executive Communications: **Page S2717**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2718–20**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2720–22**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2715–17**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2722–39**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Pages S2739–40**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2740**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S2740**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—131) **Pages S2690–91**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:16 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 7, 2014. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2740.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

MILITARY COMPENSATION PROPOSALS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Department of Defense proposals relating to military compensation, after receiving testimony from General Martin E. Dempsey, USA, Chairman, and Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Jr., USN, Vice Chairman, both of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Raymond T. Odierno, USA, Chief of Staff of the Army, Admiral Jonathan W. Greenert, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, General Mark A. Welsh, III, USAF, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General James F. Amos, USMC, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and General Frank J. Grass, ARNG, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, all of the Department of Defense; General Gordon R. Sullivan, USA (Ret.), Association of the United States Army, and General Craig R. McKinley, USAF (Ret.), Air Force Association, both of Arlington, Virginia; and General John H. Tilelli, Jr., USA (Ret.), Military Officers Association of America, and Vice Admiral John B. Totushek, USN (Ret.), Association of the United States Navy, both of Alexandria, Virginia.

EDUCATION BUDGET

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2015 for education, after receiving testimony from Arne Duncan, Secretary, and Thomas Skelly, Acting Chief Financial Officer, both of the Department of Education.

HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT FUNDING AND FINANCING

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine new routes for funding and financing highways and transit, after receiving testimony from Senator Boxer; Joseph Kile, Assistant Director for Microeconomic Studies, Congressional Budget Office; Aubrey L. Layne, Jr., Virginia Secretary of Transportation, Richmond; Jayan Dhru, Standard and Poor's Rating Services, and Samara Barend, AECOM Capital, both of New York, New York; and Chris Edwards, Cato Institute, Washington, DC.

UKRAINE

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Ukraine, focusing on countering Russian intervention and supporting a democratic state, after receiving testimony from Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs; Daniel L. Glaser, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorist Financing; Evelyn Farkas, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia; and Angela E. Stent, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, and David J. Kramer, Freedom House, both of Washington, DC.

EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Federal Programs and the Federal Workforce concluded a hearing to examine a more efficient and effective government, focusing on cultivating the Federal workforce, after receiving testimony from Katherine Archuleta, Director, Office of Personnel Management; Carol Waller Pope, Chairman, Federal Labor Relations Authority; Jeri L. Buchholz, Assistant Administrator for Human Capital Management, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Paige Hinkle-Bowles, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Civilian Personnel Policy; and J. David Cox, Sr., American Federation of Government Employees, AFL–CIO, Colleen M. Kelley, National

Treasury Employees Union, Carol Bonosaro, Senior Executives Association, and Max Stier, Partnership for Public Service, all of Washington, DC.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 21 public bills, H.R. 4564–4584; 1 private bill, H.R. 4585; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 567, and 570–573 were introduced. **Pages H3445–47**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3447–49**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2919, to amend titles 5 and 28, United States Code, to require annual reports to Congress on, and the maintenance of databases on, awards of fees and other expenses to prevailing parties in certain administrative proceedings and court cases to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 113–434);

H.R. 4292, to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title (H. Rept. 113–435);

H.R. 4228, to require the Department of Homeland Security to improve discipline, accountability, and transparency in acquisition program management, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–436);

H.R. 503, to authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–437);

H.R. 2430, to adjust the boundaries of Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park to include Hinchliffe Stadium, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–438);

Supplemental Report to Accompany Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, Former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in Contempt of Congress for Refusal to Comply with a Subpoena Duly Issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (H. Rept. 113–415, Pt. 2);

H.R. 863, to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 113–411, Pt. 2);

H. Res. 568, relating to the consideration of House Report 113–415 and an accompanying resolution, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 565) calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups by the Internal Revenue Service (H. Rept. 113–439); and

H. Res. 569, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4438) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify and make permanent the research credit (H. Rept. 113–440). **Page H3445**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Culberson to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3415**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:12 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H3416**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 253 yeas to 127 nays with 2 answering "present", Roll No. 196. **Pages H3434–35**

National Commission on Hunger—Appointment: Read a letter from Representative Pelosi, Minority Leader, in which she appointed the following individuals to the National Commission on Hunger: Dr. Deborah Alice Frank, MD of Brookline, MA and William Howard Shore of Boston, MA. **Page H3417**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:11 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m. **Page H3418**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Amending the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to authorize privately insured credit unions to become members of a Federal home loan bank: H.R. 3584, amended, to amend the Federal Home Loan Bank Act to authorize privately insured credit unions to become members of a Federal home loan bank, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 395 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 195; **Pages H3418–20, H3434**

CFPB Rural Designation Petition and Correction Act: H.R. 2672, amended, to amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for a county to be designated as a rural area; **Pages H3420–22**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: ''To amend the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act to provide for an application process for interested parties to apply for an area to be designated as a rural area, and for other purposes.''. **Page H3422**

Money Remittances Improvement Act of 2014: H.R. 4386, to allow the Secretary of the Treasury to rely on State examinations for certain financial institutions; **Pages H3422–24**

Enhancing the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, and increase individual savings: H.R. 3329, to enhance the ability of community financial institutions to foster economic growth and serve their communities, boost small businesses, increase individual savings; **Pages H3424–26**

Credit Union Share Insurance Fund Parity Act: H.R. 3468, amended, to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to extend insurance coverage to amounts held in a member account on behalf of another person; **Pages H3426–28**

Foreign Cultural Exchange Jurisdictional Immunity Clarification Act: H.R. 4292, to amend chapter 97 of title 28, United States Code, to clarify the exception to foreign sovereign immunity set forth in section 1605(a)(3) of such title, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 388 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 194; and **Pages H3428–30, H3433–34**

Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act: H.R. 2919, to amend titles 5 and 28, United States Code, to require annual reports to Congress on, and the maintenance of databases on, awards of fees and other expenses to prevailing parties in certain administrative proceedings and court cases to which the United States is a party. **Pages H3430–33**

Recess: The House recessed at 6:10 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H3433**

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in memory of James Oberstar, former Member of Congress. **Page H3435**

Recess: The House recessed at 8:47 p.m. and reconvened at 9:48 p.m. **Page H3444**

Senate Messages: Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H3417–18.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3433–34, H3434, and H3435. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AMERICAN RESEARCH AND COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2014; CALLING ON ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC H. HOLDER, JR., TO APPOINT A SPECIAL COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE THE TARGETING OF CONSERVATIVE NON-PROFIT GROUPS BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; AND RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THAT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FIND LOIS G. LERNER, FORMER DIRECTOR, EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, IN CONTEMPT OF CONGRESS FOR REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH A SUBPOENA DULY ISSUED BY THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 4438, the ''American Research and Competitiveness Act of 2014''; resolution recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, Former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena duly issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; and H. Res. 565, calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative non-profit groups by the Internal Revenue Service. The Committee granted, by voice vote, a closed rule for H.R. 4438. The rule provides 90 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–3, a rule that provides that if H. Rept. 113–415 is called up by direction of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, all points of order against the report shall be waived and it shall be considered as read. The rule grants a closed rule for the resolution accompanying H. Rept. 113–415. The

rule provides 50 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform or their respective designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the resolution accompanying the report. The rule provides that the resolution accompanying the report shall be considered as read and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule provides one motion to refer at the conclusion of debate if offered by Rep. Cummings of Maryland or his designee, which shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. The rule provides one motion to recommit the resolution accompanying the report with or without instructions. The rule additionally grants a closed rule for H. Res. 565. The rule provides 40 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the resolution. The rule provides that the resolution shall be considered as read and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. Testimony was heard from Chairmen Issa and Goodlatte, and Representatives Brady (TX), Levin, Cárdenas, Jackson Lee, Cummings, and Connolly.

Joint Meetings

GEORGIA 2008, UKRAINE 2014, AND MOLDOVA

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission received a briefing on Georgia 2008, and Ukraine 2014, focusing on if Moldova is next, and to examine Russia's intentions with regard to Transnistria and Moldova from Eugen Carpov, Deputy Prime Minister of Moldova for Reintegration, Chisinau; Stephen Blank, American Foreign Policy Council, Washington, DC; and Paul Goble, Winchester, Virginia.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2014

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine the 2014 Farm Bill, focusing on implementation and next steps, 9 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Health and Human Services, 10 a.m., SD–138.

Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security, to hold hearings to examine investing in cybersecurity, focusing on understanding risks and building capabilities for the future, 2 p.m., SD–192.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and oversight for fiscal year 2015 for Federal information technology investments, 2 p.m., SD–138.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine Surface Transportation Reauthorization, focusing on progress, challenges, and next steps, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine S. 1603, to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Match-E–Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatami Indians, S. 1818, to ratify a water settlement agreement affecting the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, S. 2040, to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, S. 2041, to repeal the Act of May 31, 1918, and S. 2188, to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian tribes, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine the fight against cancer, focusing on challenges, progress, and promise, 2:15 p.m., SD–562.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies, markup on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill FY 2015, 10 a.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, hearing on United States Assistance to Combat Transnational Crime Budget, 11:30 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4435, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, hearing entitled "The NRC FY 2015 Budget and Policy Issues", 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "PPACA Enrollment and the Insurance Industry", 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Full Committee, markup on the following legislation: H.R. 3301, the "North American Energy Infrastructure Act"; H.R. 4342, the "Domain Openness Through Continued Oversight Matters Act of 2014"; and a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to extend expiring provisions relating to the retransmission of signals of television broadcast stations, and for other purposes, 4 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup on the following legislation: H.R. 4200, the "SBIC Advisers Relief Act"; H.R. 4554, the "Restricted Securities Relief Act"; H.R. 2629, the "Fostering Innovation Act"; H.R. 1779, the "Preserving Access to Manufactured

Housing Act of 2013''; H.R. 2673, the ''Portfolio Lending and Mortgage Access Act''; H.R. 3211, the ''Mortgage Choice Act of 2013''; H.R. 4466, the ''Financial Regulatory Clarity Act of 2014''; H.R. 4521, the ''Community Institution Mortgage Relief Act of 2014''; H.R. 4568, the ''Small Business Freedom and Growth Act''; a resolution to authorize the issuance of subpoenas to the Department of Justice and the Department of the Treasury for certain documents; legislation regarding the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise its rules so as to increase the threshold amount for requiring issuers to provide certain disclosures relating to compensatory benefit plans; legislation regarding the Disclosure Modernization and Simplification Act; legislation regarding the Private Placement Improvement Act; and legislation regarding the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise the definition of a well-known seasoned issuer to reduce the worldwide market value threshold under the definition, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia and Emerging Threats, hearing entitled ''Assessing the Biological Weapons Threat: Russia and Beyond'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Preventing Waste, Fraud, Abuse and Mismanagement in Homeland Security—A GAO High-Risk List Review'', 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3361, the ''USA FREEDOM Act'', 1 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Keeping the Lights On and Reducing Catastrophic Forest Fire Risk: Proper Management of Electricity Rights of Way on Federal Lands'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs, hearing on H.R. 409, the ''Indian Trust Asset Reform Act''; and H.R. 4350, the ''Northern Cheyenne Lands Act'', 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Is EPA Leadership Obstructing Its Own Inspector General?'', 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Full Committee, markup on the Administration's Postal Reform Act of 2014, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 10, the ''Success and Opportunity through Quality Charter Schools Act''; and H. Res. 567, Providing for the Establishment of the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi, 2 p.m., H–313 Capitol.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Military to Entrepreneurship: Private Sector Initiatives to Help Veterans Pursue Business Opportunities'', 1 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing on the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the 2014 tax return filing season, 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine the economic outlook, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 7

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 2262, Energy Savings and Industrial Competitiveness Act, post-cloture.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, May 7

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H. Res.__—Resolution Recommending that the House of Representatives find Lois G. Lerner, Former Director, Exempt Organizations, Internal Revenue Service, in contempt of Congress for refusal to comply with a subpoena duly issued by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Subject to a Rule). Begin consideration of H.R. 4438—American Research and Competitiveness Act of 2014 (Subject to a Rule) and H. Res. 565—Calling on Attorney General Eric H. Holder, Jr., to appoint a special counsel to investigate the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups by the Internal Revenue Service (Subject to a Rule). Consideration of the following measures under suspension of the rules: 1) H.R. 863—To establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum Act of 2013, as amended; 2) H. Con. Res. 83—Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I; 3) H.R. 2548—The Electrify Africa Act of 2014, as amended; and 4) H. Res. 418—Urging the Government of Burma to end the persecution of the Rohingya people and respect internationally recognized human rights for all ethnic and religious minority groups within Burma, as amended.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bachmann, Michele, Minn., E686
Brady, Robert A., Pa., E682
Bustos, Cheri, Ill., E677, E694
Cartwright, Matt, Pa., E694
Coffman, Mike, Colo., E685
Connolly, Gerald E., Va., E675, E678, E680, E681, E683, E684, E686, E688, E690, E691
Conyers, John, Jr., Mich., E681
Cook, Paul, Calif., E689
Costa, Jim, Calif., E675, E676, E677, E679, E681, E683, E684, E685, E686, E688, E690, E691, E692, E693
Courtney, Joe, Conn., E692
DeFazio, Peter A., Ore., E677
Deutch, Theodore E., Fla., E679, E693
Duffy, Sean P., Wisc., E692
Farr, Sam, Calif., E676
Fitzpatrick, Michael G., Pa., E684
Grayson, Alan, Fla., E695
Hastings, Alcee L., Fla., E680
Holt, Rush, N.J., E687
Kaptur, Marcy, Ohio, E687
Langevin, James R., R.I., E695
Lee, Barbara, Calif., E693, E694, E695, E695
Lowey, Nita M., N.Y., E685
Marchant, Kenny, Tex., E683, E692
Meadows, Markk, N.C., E678, E690
Meehan, Patrick, Pa., E676
Messer, Luke, Ind., E686
Murphy, Patrick, Fla., E678
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, D.C., E682
Sablan, Gregorio Kilili Camacho, Northern Mariana Islands, E688
Schwartz, Allyson Y., Pa., E680, E693
Simpson, Michael K., Idaho, E691
Speier, Jackie, Calif.,E689
Thompson, Bennie G., Miss., E675, E677, E679, E680, E682, E684, E685, E687, E689, E691
Van Hollen, Chris, Md., E678, E682
Vargas, Juan, Calif., E685
Waxman, Henry A., Calif., E694
Wittman, Robert J., Va., E675

Congressional Record

The *Congressional Record* (USPS 087–390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Printing Office, at *www.fdsys.gov*, free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Printing Office. Phone 202–512–1800, or 866–512–1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, *contactcenter@gpo.gov*. ¶To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197–9000, or phone orders to 866–512–1800 (toll-free), 202–512–1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202–512–2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.