

2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7927. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Empresa Brasileira de Aeronautica S.A. (EMBRAER) Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0740)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7928. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0516)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7929. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pacific Aerospace Limited Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0494)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7930. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0654)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7931. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0650)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7932. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2014-0058)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7933. A communication from the Management and Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Harmonization of Airworthiness Standards—Miscellaneous Structures Requirements" ((RIN2120-AK13) (Docket No. FAA-2013-0109)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 13, 2014; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

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

POM-351. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the

United States Congress to provide a means for consistently and equitably sharing with all oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas a portion of revenue generated from outer continental shelf oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf to ensure that those states develop necessary infrastructure to support outer continental shelf development and preserve environmental integrity; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

Whereas oil and gas development in federal areas, both onshore and offshore, requires additional investment in state infrastructure and increases demand on state and local government resources; and

Whereas, under the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, the federal government recognizes the effects of oil and gas development in federal onshore areas by sharing with the states 50 percent of revenue from mineral production on federal land within each state's boundaries; and

Whereas, under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the federal government recognizes the effect oil and gas development in federal near-shore areas has on states by sharing with those states 27 percent of revenue collected from federal oil and gas leases within three miles of the states' coastlines; and

Whereas, under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, the federal government recognizes the effect that oil and gas development in federal offshore areas has on the states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, and recognizes the contributions to national energy, security, and economic interests made by sharing with those states 37.5 percent of revenue from federal oil and gas leases in outer continental shelf areas adjacent to each state; and

Whereas the federal government fails to recognize the same effects on and contributions made by other oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas, including this state and California; and

Whereas the Alaska outer continental shelf region encompasses the Beaufort, Chukchi, and Bering seas, Cook Inlet, and the Gulf of Alaska, includes over 1,000,000,000 acres, and contains more than 6,000 miles of coastline, which is more coastline than the rest of the United States combined; and

Whereas there are presently 607 active oil and gas leases and more than 3,300,000 acres of leased land in the Alaska outer shelf continental region; and

Whereas federal government grants do not adequately address the need for additional investment in state infrastructure or the increased demands on state and local government resources resulting from outer continental shelf development, especially in this state, which has more coastline, more rural communities, and less infrastructure than any other state; and

Whereas outer continental shelf revenue sharing would allow states to build infrastructure such as marine ports, airports, utilities, and housing, and increase state services, such as oil spill and emergency response and environmental monitoring and mitigation, which would likely lead to expanded, safer exploration and development activity and increase overall revenue to the federal government; and

Whereas additional state infrastructure and increased availability of state and local government resources would likely increase interest in and bids during future federal outer continental shelf oil and gas lease sales, which have generated over \$2,750,000,000 in revenue for the federal gov-

ernment in the Alaska outer continental shelf region alone since 2005; and

Whereas outer continental shelf revenue sharing could provide a stable funding source for and help fulfill the mission of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a national fund created to safeguard natural areas, water resources, and cultural heritage and to provide recreation opportunities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to provide a means for consistently and equitably sharing with all oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas a portion of revenue generated from outer continental shelf oil and gas production to ensure the states develop necessary infrastructure to support outer continental shelf development and preserve environmental integrity.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Eric Cantor, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

POM-352. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the United States Congress to enact legislation that would require approval by Acts of the Alaska State Legislature and the United States Congress before establishing an international designation of land or water in the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15

Whereas Alaska and the Russian Far East are close neighbors across the Bering Sea, and archaeologists believe that the area was a migration route used by many peoples moving from Asia and populating North and South America; and

Whereas some of the indigenous peoples of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East speak the same language and share the same customs and traditions but have, until recent times, been separated by political differences between their respective countries; and

Whereas, in recent years, various events and exchanges have been organized to reconnect the residents of Western Alaska and those of the Russian Far East; and

Whereas the areas of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East have been referred to as Beringia; and

Whereas, in 2010, the United States and Russia began negotiations to develop a Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of establishing an international protected area in the Bering Strait region that would include the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, the Cape Krusenstern National Monument, and, in the Chukotka region of Russia, the yet-to-be-created Beringia International Park; and

Whereas the National Park Service identifies and defines Beringia as the area bounded

on the east by the Mackenzie River in Canada, on the west by the Lena River in Russia, on the north by 72 degrees North latitude, and on the south by the southern tip of Kamchatka, leaving only the south-central and southeastern limits to be determined; and

Whereas the federal government historically has attempted to expand the scope of its influence beyond Alaska park boundaries, including the attempt to establish game buffer zones around Denali National Park and Preserve; and

Whereas, during the past two decades, the National Park Service has repeatedly expanded the size of the area identified as Beringia; and

Whereas the National Park Service manages the Shared Beringian Heritage Program and seeks to foster mutual understanding and cooperation between the United States and Russia and between the indigenous peoples of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East by promoting cultural exchange, supporting subsistence opportunities, and working toward an international designation for the land and water in the area identified as Beringia; and

Whereas, for many years, the National Park Service has pursued a program to establish a Beringia International Park that potentially could evolve into a world heritage site or a marine biosphere reserve and would include land and water in Alaska and the Russian Far East; and

Whereas officials of the United States Department of State and the National Park Service have traveled throughout Russia and spoken before the Russian Duma in Moscow; and

Whereas the international designations contemplated by the National Park Service for the areas included in Beringia are an invitation and another means for United States and foreign environmental nongovernmental organizations to oppose resource development on public and Alaska Native land and water in the state; and

Whereas many Alaskans are concerned that the proposed Beringia International Park would impede future rights of access for the Red Dog Mine, the primary economic engine in Northwest Alaska; and

Whereas Alaska Native corporations and the state specifically selected much of their land because of the mineral potential and the opportunity to create jobs and other economic opportunities for the people of the state; and

Whereas, in September 2012, Governor Sean Parnell sent a letter to then United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton asking for time to conduct a meaningful review of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding regarding Beringia and to provide input on the possible effects of the Memorandum of Understanding on the region and the state; and

Whereas, on January 17, 2013, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed a decree creating Beringia National Park as a Russian National Park in the Chukotka Region; and

Whereas, in October 2013, members of the Alaska State Legislature learned that the United States Department of State, the National Park Service, and the Russian Federation were in the final stages of formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding regarding a transboundary protected area in the Bering Strait region; and

Whereas the current effort to formalize a transboundary protected area would be the first step in imposing international designations and could reduce the sovereignty of the state and the United States over the burdened parts of the state, in violation of the Alaska Statehood Compact, the Alaska Na-

tive Claims Settlement Act, and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and

Whereas the Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the management, protection, maintenance, enhancement, rehabilitation, and extension of fish and wildlife resources in the state, including management responsibilities on National Park Service land; and

Whereas, in the 1982 Master Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Fish and Game and the National Park Service, the parties agreed to "consider carefully the impact on the State of Alaska of proposed treaties or international agreements relating to fish and wildlife resources which could diminish the jurisdictional authority of the State, and to consult freely with the State when such treaties or agreements have a significant impact on the State"; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature asserts that any international Memorandum of Understanding or other action to designate land or water in the state as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or classification of land or water that affects the proper use of the land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation should require approval by Acts of the Alaska State Legislature and the United States Congress before taking effect; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that the United States Department of State and the United States Department of the Interior cease all further action to establish an international designation of land or water in the state until the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature approve; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Congress enact a law that requires Congressional approval of any international designation that affects the use of land or water by the state or the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that, if the United States Department of State or the United States Department of the Interior nevertheless pursues or proposes the designation of land or water as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or classification of land or water that affects the proper use of the land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation, the governor be actively involved in the process and development of any joint action plan; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that the state, including the departments responsible for the management of fish and wildlife and other natural resources, be an integral if not primary part of any discussion, agreement, understanding, or other process or document that affects the use or development of fish and wildlife and other natural resources in the state; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the governor and the attorney general to reserve all legal remedies, including the recovery of damages, for a taking of the natural resources of the state in violation of the Alaska Statehood Compact, should a designation of land and water in the state as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification hamper the use or development of the natural resources of the state.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the

Honorable John F. Kerry, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis, director of the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska; the Honorable Michael C. Geraghty, Alaska Attorney General; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

POM-353. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the United States Congress to act on the request of the governor to acquire for the State additional land in the Tongass National Forest from the United States Government by purchase or negotiation or by seeking amendment to the Alaska Statehood Act; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 2

Whereas the Tongass National Forest was created in 1907 by a proclamation of President Theodore Roosevelt; and

Whereas, under the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85-508, 72 Stat. 339), the federal government provided Alaska with a 103,350,000-acre land entitlement, which was considered to be sufficient for the newly formed state to become economically self-supporting; and

Whereas the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85-508, 72 Stat. 339) gave the state 25 years to select land for entitlement; and

Whereas the 25-year period established in the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85-508, 72 Stat. 339) as the period in which the state may select land for entitlement was later extended, in effect, by various legislation, with the result that approximately 5,500,000 acres of the land entitlement granted to the state by the Act have not yet been conveyed; and

Whereas, from the 1950s through the early 1990s, the commercial harvest of timber formed a major part of the economy of Southeast Alaska; and

Whereas the commercial harvest of timber no longer forms a major part of the economy of Southeast Alaska because the timber industry does not have access to an adequate amount of timber that can be economically harvested from the Tongass National Forest; and

Whereas, in the past four years, several efforts to revitalize the timber industry in Southeast Alaska have failed because a timber industry cannot exist without an adequate timber supply; and

Whereas the United States Congress has placed 40 percent of the Tongass National Forest off limits for commercial use, and the United States Forest Service has administratively set aside an additional 58 percent of the Tongass National Forest; and

Whereas, at the present time, only two percent of the Tongass National Forest is managed for the purpose of providing local communities with the opportunity to harvest timber; and

Whereas 91 percent of the old growth timber standing in the Tongass National Forest in 1954 remains standing, and the remaining nine percent that has been harvested has now been replaced with young growth timber

that will begin maturing in about 30 years; and

Whereas findings prepared by the Alaska Timber Jobs Task Force in June 2012 reveal that the timber industry is vitally important to statewide and regional economies in the state; and

Whereas the principal barrier to job creation in the Southeast Alaska timber industry is the lack of a sufficient amount of timber that can be economically harvested from the Tongass National Forest; and

Whereas an unrealistic Tongass Land Management Plan dictated by Washington, D.C., endless environmental legal appeals, and a lack of political will by public officials who are in a position to support meeting timber harvest targets have prevented the United States Forest Service from providing the timber industry access to enough economically harvestable timber in the Tongass National Forest to make the timber industry commercially viable in Southeast Alaska; and

Whereas because the United States Forest Service has not been able to provide the timber industry with access to enough economically harvestable timber in the Tongass National Forest to sustain the timber industry in Southeast Alaska, it is time for the United States Congress to act on the governor's request to acquire additional land in the Tongass National Forest that will provide enough economically harvestable timber to create a sustainable economic base for the communities of Southeast Alaska; and

Whereas sec. 6 of the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85-508, 72 Stat. 339) limited the state's selection of land from the Tongass National Forest and the Chugach National Forest to 400,000 acres with the intention of preserving timber for federal long-term sales; and

Whereas sec. 6 of the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85-508, 72 Stat. 339) allowed the state to select land in other regions of the state without restricting the use of the land to recreation and community expansion, and, because the timber industry in Southeast Alaska has become unsustainable, the state should be entitled to acquire some of its remaining land entitlement under the Alaska Statehood Act from the Tongass National Forest; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully urges the United States Congress to act on the governor's request to negotiate state land entitlements under sec. 6 of the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85-508, 72 Stat. 339) or work to amend the Alaska Statehood Act for the purpose of acquiring forested land in the Tongass National Forest; and be it further

Resolved, That, if the United States Congress fails to convey forested land in the Tongass National Forest either by negotiating state land entitlements under the Alaska Statehood Act (P.L. 85-508, 72 Stat. 339) or by amending the Alaska Statehood Act, the Alaska State Legislature urges the governor to negotiate the purchase of forested land in the Tongass National Forest from the federal government.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of Agriculture; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska.

POM-354. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the

United States Congress to enact legislation that would require approval by Acts of the Alaska State Legislature and the United States Congress before establishing an international designation of land or water in the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 15

Whereas Alaska and the Russian Far East are close neighbors across the Bering Sea, and archaeologists believe that the area was a migration route used by many peoples moving from Asia and populating North and South America; and

Whereas some of the indigenous peoples of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East speak the same language and share the same customs and traditions but have, until recent times, been separated by political differences between their respective countries; and

Whereas in recent years, various events and exchanges have been organized to reconnect the residents of Western Alaska and those of the Russian Far East; and

Whereas the areas of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East have been referred to as Beringia; and

Whereas, in 2010, the United States and Russia began negotiations to develop a Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of establishing an international protected area in the Bering Strait region that would include the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, the Cape Krusenstern National Monument, and, in the Chukotka region of Russia, the yet-to-be created Beringia International Park; and

Whereas the National Park Service identifies and defines Beringia as the area bounded on the east by the Mackenzie River in Canada, on the west by the Lena River in Russia, on the north by 72 degrees North latitude, and on the south by the southern tip of Kamchatka, leaving only the south-central and southeastern limits to be determined; and

Whereas the federal government historically has attempted to expand the scope of its influence beyond Alaska park boundaries, including the attempt to establish game buffer zones around Denali National Park and Preserve; and

Whereas, during the past two decades, the National Park Service has repeatedly expanded the size of the area identified as Beringia; and

Whereas the National Park Service manages the Shared Beringian Heritage Program and seeks to foster mutual understanding and cooperation between the United States and Russia and between the indigenous peoples of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East by promoting cultural exchange, supporting subsistence opportunities, and working toward an international designation for the land and water in the area identified as Beringia; and

Whereas, for many years, the National Park Service has pursued a program to establish a Beringia International Park that potentially could evolve into a world heritage site or a marine biosphere reserve and would include land and water in Alaska and the Russian Far East; and

Whereas officials of the United States Department of State and the National Park Service have traveled throughout Russia and spoken before the Russian Duma in Moscow; and

Whereas the international designations contemplated by the National Park Service for the areas included in Beringia are an invitation and another means for United States and foreign environmental non-governmental organizations to oppose resource development on public and Alaska Native land and water in the state; and

Whereas many Alaskans are concerned that the proposed Beringia International Park would impede future rights of access for the Red Dog Mine, the primary economic engine in Northwest Alaska; and

Whereas Alaska Native corporations and the state specifically selected much of their land because of the mineral potential and the opportunity to create jobs and other economic opportunities for the people of the state; and

Whereas, in September 2012, Governor Sean Parnell sent a letter to then United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton asking for time to conduct a meaningful review of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding regarding Beringia and to provide input on the possible effects of the Memorandum of Understanding on the region and the state; and

Whereas, on January 17, 2013, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed a decree creating Beringia National Park as a Russian National Park in the Chukotka Region; and

Whereas, in October 2013, members of the Alaska State Legislature learned that the United States Department of State, the National Park Service, and the Russian Federation were in the final stages of formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding regarding a transboundary protected area in the Bering Strait region; and

Whereas the current effort to formalize a transboundary protected area would be the first step in imposing international designations and could reduce the sovereignty of the state and the United States over the burdened parts of the state, in violation of the Alaska Statehood Compact, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and

Whereas the Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the management, protection, maintenance, enhancement, rehabilitation, and extension of fish and wildlife resources in the state, including management responsibilities on National Park Service land; and

Whereas, in the 1982 Master Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Fish and Game and the National Park Service, the parties agreed to "consider carefully the impact on the State of Alaska of proposed treaties or international agreements relating to fish and wildlife resources which could diminish the jurisdictional authority of the State, and to consult freely with the State when such treaties or agreements have a significant impact on the State": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature asserts that any international Memorandum of Understanding or other action to designate land or water in the state as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or classification of land or water that affects the proper use of the land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation should require approval by Acts of the Alaska State Legislature and the United States Congress before taking effect; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that the United States Department of State and the United States Department of the Interior cease all further action to establish an international designation of land or water in the state until the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature approve; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Congress enact a law that requires Congressional approval of any international designation that affects the use of land or water by the state or the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that, if the United States Department of State or the United States Department of the Interior nevertheless pursues or proposes the designation of land or water as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or classification of land or water that affects the proper use of the land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation, the governor be actively involved in the process and development of any joint action plan; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that the state, including the departments responsible for the management of fish and wildlife and other natural resources, be an integral if not primary part of any discussion, agreement, understanding, or other process or document that affects the use or development of fish and wildlife and other natural resources in the state; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the governor and the attorney general to reserve all legal remedies, including the recovery of damages, for a taking of the natural resources of the state in violation of the Alaska Statehood Compact, should a designation of land and water in the state as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification hamper the use or development of the natural resources of the state.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John F. Kerry, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis, director of the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska; the Honorable Michael C. Geraghty, Alaska Attorney General; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

POM-355. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the United States Congress to provide a means for consistently and equitably sharing with all oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas a portion of revenue generated from outer continental shelf oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf to ensure that those states develop necessary infrastructure to support outer continental shelf development and preserve environmental integrity; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

Whereas oil and gas development in federal areas, both onshore and offshore, requires additional investment in state infrastructure and increases demand on state and local government resources; and

Whereas, under the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, the federal government recognizes the effects of oil and gas development in federal onshore areas by sharing with the

states 50 percent of revenue from mineral production on federal land within each state's boundaries; and

Whereas, under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, the federal government recognizes the effect oil and gas development in federal near-shore areas has on states by sharing with those states 27 percent of revenue collected from federal oil and gas leases within three miles of the states' coastlines; and

Whereas, under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, the federal government recognizes the effect that oil and gas development in federal offshore areas has on the states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, and recognizes the contributions to national energy, security, and economic interests made by sharing with those states 37.5 percent of revenue from federal oil and gas leases in outer continental shelf areas adjacent to each state; and

Whereas the federal government fails to recognize the same effects on and contributions made by other oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas, including this state and California; and

Whereas the Alaska outer continental shelf region encompasses the Beaufort, Chukchi, and Bering seas, Cook Inlet, and the Gulf of Alaska, includes over 1,000,000,000 acres, and contains more than 6,000 miles of coastline, which is more coastline than the rest of the United States combined; and

Whereas there are presently 607 active oil and gas leases and more than 3,300,000 acres of leased land in the Alaska outer shelf continental region; and

Whereas federal government grants do not adequately address the need for additional investment in state infrastructure or the increased demands on state and local government resources resulting from outer continental shelf development, especially in this state, which has more coastline, more rural communities, and less infrastructure than any other state; and

Whereas outer continental shelf revenue sharing would allow states to build infrastructure such as marine ports, airports, utilities, and housing, and increase state services, such as oil spill and emergency response and environmental monitoring and mitigation, which would likely lead to expanded, safer exploration and development activity and increase overall revenue to the federal government; and

Whereas additional state infrastructure and increased availability of state and local government resources would likely increase interest in and bids during future federal outer continental shelf oil and gas lease sales, which have generated over \$2,750,000,000 in revenue for the federal government in the Alaska outer continental shelf region alone since 2005; and

Whereas outer continental shelf revenue sharing could provide a stable funding source for and help fulfill the mission of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a national fund created to safeguard natural areas, water resources, and cultural heritage and to provide recreation opportunities; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to provide a means for consistently and equitably sharing with all oil and gas producing states adjacent to federal outer continental shelf areas a portion of revenue generated from outer continental shelf oil and gas production to ensure the states develop necessary infrastructure to support outer continental shelf development and preserve environmental integrity.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of

the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Eric Cantor, Majority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

POM-356. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to repeal the excise tax on medical devices; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 20

Whereas a new federal excise tax of 2.3 percent on the sale of taxable medical devices by manufacturers, producers, and importers of those devices took effect January 1, 2013; and

Whereas the medical device tax is imposed on United States sales, rather than profits, of medical device manufacturers, producers, and importers and will be particularly damaging to innovative start-up companies; and

Whereas the medical device tax was projected to raise \$20,000,000,000, but that estimate has risen to over \$30,000,000,000; and

Whereas the medical device tax will substantially increase the cost of health care and takes direct aim at American innovation by punishing the researchers and manufacturers of devices such as heart stents, pacemakers, patient monitors, artificial hips, limbs, and hearts, and a multitude of other medical devices; and

Whereas thousands of layoffs in the United States have already occurred because of the medical device tax; and

Whereas the medical device tax threatens regional economic vitality, badly needed jobs, and patients' hopes for new, life-saving products and treatments; and

Whereas the repeal of the medical device tax has strong bipartisan support: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the President of the United States and the United States Congress to repeal the excise tax on medical devices.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM-357. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska memorializing support for the strategic recommendation of the January 30, 2014, preliminary report of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission to "continue to pursue, and actively expand, all avenues of participation in

the Arctic Council, including involvement in working groups and by building partnerships with permanent participants"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

Whereas, by its very existence, the state enables the United States to be an Arctic nation; and

Whereas, in April 2012, the Alaska State Legislature established the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission to "develop an Arctic policy for the state and produce a strategy for the implementation of an Arctic policy"; and

Whereas the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission has been working with the National Strategy for the Arctic Region Task Force on how to best craft an Arctic policy that benefits and creates opportunity for the state and the entire United States; and

Whereas the Arctic resources of the state are immense and, with responsible development, could contribute significantly to the economy of the United States and to the entire pan-Arctic region; and

Whereas the Bering Strait serves as the gateway to the Arctic for the marine traffic of the United States and other nations between the Pacific Ocean and the Arctic; and

Whereas the marine traffic through the Bering Strait choke point has been increasing; and

Whereas the Arctic Council is the intergovernmental forum in which all eight Arctic nations participate; and

Whereas the Arctic Council includes six Arctic indigenous communities, four of which are resident in the state, and six permanent working groups, each of which directly affects the state; and

Whereas Canada is the current chair of the Arctic Council, and the United States will be the chair from May 2015 until 2017; and

Whereas the United States should seek local and scientific expertise from the state to inform the nation's input at the Arctic Council; and

Whereas, in December 2012, the Governor proposed to the United States Department of State four priorities for consideration while the United States is chair of the Arctic Council; and

Whereas it is important for the priorities of the state and the United States to be in alignment while the United States holds the position of chair of the Arctic Council; and

Whereas, when the United States ascends to chair of the Arctic Council in 2015, the United States Department of State will appoint one individual as chair of the Arctic Council; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Department of State to consider the priorities of the state while it holds the position of chair of the Arctic Council, including the priorities of the Governor, creating jobs and economic opportunity for Arctic residents, preventing suicide, developing safe and sustainable sanitation facilities for small, isolated Arctic communities, and securing safe and reliable shipping; and be it further:

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests that the United States Department of State work in partnership with state officials to appoint a chair of the Arctic Council; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature supports the strategic recommendation of the January 30, 2014, preliminary report of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission to "continue to pursue, and actively expand, all avenues of participation in the Arctic Council, including involvement in working groups and by building partnerships with permanent participants."

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of

the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John F. Kerry, United States Secretary of State; the Honorable Robert Menendez, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; the Honorable Bob Corker, ranking member, U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., Commandant of the United States Coast Guard; the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Fran Ulmer, Chair, U.S. Arctic Research Commission; the Honorable Kathryn D. Sullivan, Ph.D., Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator, U.S. Department of Commerce; the Honorable John Paul Holdren, Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy; the Honorable Kerri-Ann Jones, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State; Alice Hill, Senior Counselor to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM-358. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urging the President and Congress of the United States to urge the Government of Iraq to take immediate steps to protect the safety and constitutional rights of all Iraqi citizens; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 430

Whereas, Iraq is currently embroiled in a surge of violence arising from an Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) led offensive that began in the Anbar province, has spread to key locations such as Mosul, Tikrit and Samarra and continues to engulf the region in violence and instability; and

Whereas, on June 29, 2014, ISIL leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi renamed the group the Islamic State and pronounced himself caliph of a new Islamic Caliphate encompassing the areas under his control; and

Whereas, Mr. al-Baghdadi has a stated mission of spreading the Islamic State and caliphate across the region through violence against Shiites, non-Muslims and un-supportive Sunnis; and

Whereas, upon taking control over northwestern Iraq and Syria, ISIL issued a warning to Christians living under its jurisdiction to convert to Islam, to pay a burdensome religious tax or to be executed; and

Whereas, over 1,000,000 people have been displaced by violence in Iraq and reports have surfaced of targeted harassment, persecution and killings of Iraqi religious minorities by the Islamic State with little to no protection from the Government of Iraq and other security forces; and

Whereas, reports indicate that Islamic State militants have been marking homes of Christians with the Arabic letter "N," for "Nazara" (Christian), beheading children and crucifying captives. ISIL's actions are a crime against humanity and nothing more than genocide or ethnic cleansing against religious minority groups; and

Whereas, the Iraqi constitution provides for religious freedom by stating:

(1) "no law may be enacted that contradicts the principles of democracy";

(2) "no law may be enacted that contradicts the rights and basic freedom stipulated in this Constitution"; and

(3) "[This Constitution] guarantees the full religious rights to freedom of religious belief

and practice of all individuals such as Christians, Yazidis, and Mandaean Sabaeans";

Whereas, President Barack Obama recently declared on Religious Freedom Day, "Foremost among the rights Americans hold sacred is the freedom to worship as we choose . . . [W]e also remember that religious liberty is not just an American right; it is a universal human right to be protected here at home and across the globe. This freedom is an essential part of human dignity, and without it our world cannot know lasting peace"; and

Whereas, the atrocities being committed against Christians and other ethnic and religious minority communities in Iraq are unconscionable and represent a crime against humanity; Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the President and the Congress of the United States to publicly denounce the crimes against humanity occurring in Iraq and to take prudent action to protect Iraqi Christians and other religious minorities from persecution from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant; and

Resolved, That the President and Congress urge the Government of Iraq to take immediate steps to protect the safety and constitutional rights of all Iraqi citizens; and

Resolved, That the President and Congress work with the Government of Iraq to bring Islamic State militants to justice before an international forum for war crimes and crimes against humanity; be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, to the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

POM-359. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska opposing the warrantless collection of telephone call data by the National Security Agency; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 22

Whereas the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized"; and

Whereas the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides "No person shall . . . be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law"; and

Whereas, on December 16, 2013, United States District Court Judge Richard Leon ruled that the National Security Agency's program, bulk collection, and querying of telephone record in metadata are likely unconstitutional; and

Whereas the legislature objects to the dragnet approach to data collection allowed by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, a court that operates in secret and, under sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, issues orders that perpetuate the warrantless collection of data of nearly all Americans; and

Whereas the National Security Agency stores the date and time of calls, their duration, and the participating telephone numbers of the calls of nearly all Americans in a centralized database, which allows National Security Agency analysts to access not only those numbers, but the numbers with which the numbers have been in contact, and, in turn, the numbers in contact with those numbers; and

Whereas the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, in its January 2014 report

titled "Report on the Telephone Records Program Conducted under Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act and on the Operations of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court," questions the legal basis for the National Security Agency's mass telephone call data collection program; and

Whereas, when telephone call data of Americans is collected by the National Security Agency, that data is not related to specific investigations of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

Whereas orders issued by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court at the request of the federal government require telephone companies to provide new calling records on a daily basis, a Mandate not grounded in statute; and

Whereas sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act is designed to enable the Federal Bureau of Investigation to obtain records in the course of investigations, but the National Security Agency's mass collection of the records is not consistent with that design; and

Whereas the Electronic Communications Privacy Act of 1986 prohibits telephone companies from sharing consumer data with the government except in special circumstances, and the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board concluded that the National Security Agency's telephone call data collection program may violate the Act; and

Whereas the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board found that the National Security Agency's telephone call data collection program has not prevented, discovered, or identified terrorist attacks, plots, or suspects that threatened the security of the United States; and

Whereas the widespread collection of telephone call data of Americans reveals highly sensitive personal information; and

Whereas the legislature resolutely opposes the continuation of the National Security Agency's warrantless data collection program; and

Whereas the legislature views the National Security Agency's storage in a central database of the telephone call metadata of all Americans as all unconstitutional practice that should be immediately suspended; and

Whereas the history of government coercion, persecution, and abuse of personal information and human life in the twentieth century prompts the legislature to seek to protect the liberty of future generations from an oppressive and tyrannical federal government; and

Whereas the fundamental rights of Americans to speak freely and associate with others are threatened and are likely being diminished by the National Security Agency's mass collection of telephone call data; and

Whereas the National Security Agency's mass collection of telephone call data may intimidate or chill the freedom of expression of individuals and groups that disagree with certain government policies or result in extreme scrutiny of those persons simply for opposing those policies; and

Whereas the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court has deviated from its purpose to authorize warrants for electronic surveillance relating only to a specific person, a specific place, or a specific communications account or device; and

Whereas the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court operates in a secretive manner that prevents the court from hearing public input regarding government requests to conduct surveillance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the federal government to end the mass telephone call data collection program conducted under sec. 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, because of its lack of a statutory foundation and because it raises serious constitutional concerns under the Fourth and

Fifth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the federal government to eliminate all stored metadata upon ending the mass telephone call data collection program; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to authorize the creation of a panel of private sector lawyers to serve as advocates for the public before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to increase public knowledge and oversight; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges judges of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to write opinions in a manner that allows the government to declassify and release the opinions to the public; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to work to declassify past opinions and release those opinions to the public; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature requests the United States Attorney General and members of the intelligence and judiciary committees of the United States Congress to inform the Alaska State Legislature of the federal government's activities under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and provide the Alaska State Legislature with copies of reports submitted under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the Governor to prohibit the use of state personnel and resources to assist the National Security Agency in its collection of mass data on Alaskans without a specific search warrant; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature considers the National Security Agency's unilateral collection of the telephone call data of all Americans a violation of statute, an unconstitutional program, and a troubling overreach by the federal government; the Alaska State Legislature has sworn to uphold both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Alaska and will not assist the federal government by facilitating programs that are tyrannical in nature, that subject Americans to unreasonable and unwarranted searches, and that violate the fundamental principle of liberty; let this resolution serve as a notice to this Administration and all future Administrations that Alaskans reject surrendering their liberty in the name of an unconstitutional program.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, President pro tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Chair, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Saxby Chambliss, Vice Chair, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Mike Rogers, Chair, U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable C. A. Dutch Ruppersburger, Ranking Member, U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence; the Honorable Jeh Johnson, United States Secretary of Homeland Security; the Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor of Alaska; General Keith B. Alexander, United States Army, Director, National Security Agency; Richard H. Ledgett, Jr., Deputy Director, National Security Agency; James B. Comey, Director,

Federal Bureau of Investigation; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM-360. Urging the United States Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States Veterans who served in the waters defined by and in the airspace over the combat zone in Vietnam, and urging the United States Congress to pass the Toxic Exposure Research and Military Family Support Act of 2013 and to establish a national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of health conditions of descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 25

Whereas, during the Vietnam War, the United States military sprayed over 19,000,000 gallons of Agent Orange and other herbicides over Vietnam to reduce forest cover and crops used by the enemy; those herbicides contained dioxin, which has since been identified as carcinogenic and has been linked with numerous serious and disabling diseases affecting thousands of veterans; and

Whereas the United States Congress passed the Agent Orange Act of 1991 to address the plight of veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in the Republic of Vietnam; the Act amended Title 38 of the United States Code presumptively to recognize as service-connected certain diseases among military personnel who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975; that presumption has provided access to appropriate disability compensation and medical care for Vietnam veterans diagnosed with illnesses such as Type II diabetes, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, Parkinson's disease, multiple myeloma, peripheral neuropathy, AL Amyloidosis respiratory cancers, and soft tissue sarcomas, and others yet to be identified; and

Whereas, under a 2001 directive, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has denied the presumption of a service connection for herbicide-related illnesses to Vietnam veterans who cannot furnish written documentation that they had "boots on the ground" in-country, making it virtually impossible for countless United States Navy, Marine, and Air Force veterans to pursue their claims for benefits; moreover, personnel who served on ships in the "Blue Water Navy" in Vietnamese territorial waters were, in fact, exposed to dangerous airborne toxins, which not only drifted offshore but washed into streams and rivers draining into the South China Sea; and

Whereas the United States Navy has been excluded from coverage under the Agent Orange Act of 1991 although Agent Orange has been verified, through various studies and reports, to be a wide-spreading chemical that was able to reach Navy ships through the air and through waterborne distribution routes; and

Whereas warships positioned off the Vietnamese coast routinely distilled seawater to obtain potable water; a 2002 Australian study found that the distillation process, rather than removing toxins, in fact concentrated dioxin in water used for drinking, cooking, and washing; the Australian Department of Veterans Affairs conducted that study after it found that Vietnam veterans of the Royal Australian Navy had a higher rate of mortality from diseases associated with Agent Orange than did Vietnam veterans of other branches of the military; and

Whereas the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found a higher

risk of specific cancers among United States Navy veterans than among veterans of other branches of the military; and

Whereas herbicides containing dioxin did not discriminate between soldiers on the ground and sailors on ships offshore; and

Whereas Representative Christopher Gibson and 168 cosponsors, including Representative Don Young, introduced the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013; and

Whereas more than 30 veterans service organizations support the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013; and

Whereas, by not passing the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013, a precedent could be set selectively to provide certain groups with injury-related medical care while denying that care to other groups, without any financial, scientific, or consistent reasoning; and

Whereas, when the Agent Orange Act of 1991 passed with no dissenting votes, congressional leaders stressed the importance of responding to the health concerns of Vietnam veterans and ending the bitterness and anxiety that had surrounded the issue of herbicide exposure; the federal government has also demonstrated its awareness of the hazards of Agent Orange exposure through its involvement in the identification, containment, and mitigation of dioxin “hot spots” in Vietnam; and

Whereas the United States Congress should reaffirm the nation’s commitment to the well-being of all of its veterans and direct the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to administer the Agent Orange Act of 1991 under the presumption that herbicide exposure in the Republic of Vietnam included inland waterways, offshore waters, and airspace, encompassing the entire combat zone; and

Whereas S. 1602 was introduced in the United States Senate on October 29, 2013, by Senator Richard Blumenthal; and

Whereas S. 1602 would establish a national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of health conditions of descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during service in the armed forces of the United States, provide services to those descendants, and establish an advisory board on exposure to toxic substances: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to restore the presumption of a service connection for Agent Orange exposure to United States Veterans who served in the waters defined by the combat zone and in the airspace over the combat zone; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Congress to pass S. 1602, the Toxic Exposure Research and Military Family Support Act of 2013, and to establish a national center for the diagnosis, treatment, and research of health conditions of descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs; the Honorable Richard Burr, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs; the Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM-361. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska condemning the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials that prohibited religious holiday messages, music, and gifts from being conveyed to veterans at Veterans Health Administration facilities and requesting that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs ensure that the violations of veterans’ rights described in this resolution do not occur again; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

Whereas, in December 2013, federal Veterans Health Administration facilities in Texas, Georgia, Iowa, and Alabama violated the religious freedom rights of convalescing veterans in their care; and

Whereas a Veterans Health Administration hospital in Dallas, Texas, did not distribute to the veterans in its care holiday cards that used certain language, including “Merry Christmas” and “God bless you”; and

Whereas a Veterans Health Administration hospital in Augusta, Georgia, denied Christmas carolers from the local high school the opportunity to sing in public areas of the hospital; and

Whereas two other Veterans Health Administration facilities in Iowa and Alabama prohibited the distribution of Christmas gifts and Christmas gift bags; and

Whereas a Veterans Health Administration official cited the policy of the Veterans Health Administration for the nondistribution of the holiday cards; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration official stated that, in order to respect veterans religious beliefs, all donated holiday cards are reviewed by a multidisciplinary team of staff led by the chaplaincy services to determine whether the cards are appropriate and can be freely distributed to patients; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration official stated that the process for reviewing holiday cards was not fully explained to the particular group involved and apologized for any misunderstanding; and

Whereas the officials at the Veterans Health Administration facilities described in this resolution ignored the policies established by the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding holiday practices at the facilities; and

Whereas those holiday cards, gifts, and presentations came from caring citizens, including young children, who took the time to recognize the heroic actions of men and women who have sacrificed so much in the service of their country in times of both peace and war; and

Whereas, although Christmas Day has origins in religious beliefs, it is recognized as a civic holiday for federal employees; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration violates the right to religious freedom of the veterans in its care by not allowing them to receive certain holiday cards and gifts and to attend certain presentations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature condemns the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials that prohibited religious holiday messages, music, and gifts from being conveyed to veterans at Veterans Health Administration facilities and respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs ensure that the violations of veterans’ rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs reconsider the policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities

and rewrite those policies so that the violations of veterans’ rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature finds it very troubling that the established policies and procedures of the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs on holiday practices at the Veterans Health Administration facilities are apparently being ignored and respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs review the present established policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities and train personnel on those policies so that the apparent violations of veterans’ rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs provide each member of the Alaska State Legislature with a written assurance that the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials described in this resolution do not reflect the policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs; the Honorable Richard Burr, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs; the Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Verdie Bowen, Director, Office of Veterans Affairs, Alaska Department of Military and Veterans’ Affairs; Susan Yeager, Director, Alaska VA Healthcare System; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

POM-362. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska condemning the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials that prohibited religious holiday messages, music, and gifts from being conveyed to veterans at Veterans Health Administration facilities and requesting that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs ensure that the violations of veterans rights described in this resolution do not occur again; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

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Whereas a Veterans Health Administration hospital in Augusta, Georgia, denied Christmas carolers from the local high school the opportunity to sing in public areas of the hospital; and

Whereas two other Veterans Health Administration facilities in Iowa and Alabama prohibited the distribution of Christmas gifts and Christmas gift bags; and

Whereas a Veterans Health Administration official cited the policy of the Veterans Health Administration for the nondistribution of the holiday cards; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration official stated that, in order to respect veterans' religious beliefs, all donated holiday cards are reviewed by a multidisciplinary team of staff led by the chaplaincy services to determine whether the cards are appropriate and can be freely distributed to patients; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration official stated that the process for reviewing holiday cards was not fully explained to the particular group involved and apologized for any misunderstanding; and

Whereas the officials at the Veterans Health Administration facilities described in this resolution ignored the policies established by the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs regarding holiday practices at the facilities; and

Whereas those holiday cards, gifts, and presentations came from caring citizens, including young children, who took the time to recognize the heroic actions of men and women who have sacrificed so much in the service of their country in times of both peace and war; and

Whereas, although Christmas Day has origins in religious beliefs, it is recognized as a civic holiday for federal employees; and

Whereas the Veterans Health Administration violates the right to religious freedom of the veterans in its care by not allowing them to receive certain holiday cards and gifts and to attend certain presentations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature condemns the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials that prohibited religious holiday messages, music, and gifts from being conveyed to veterans at Veterans Health Administration facilities and respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs ensure that the violations of veterans' rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs reconsider the policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities and rewrite those policies so that the violations of veterans' rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature finds it very troubling that the established policies and procedures of the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs on holiday practices at the Veterans Health Administration facilities are apparently being ignored and respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs review the present established policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities and train personnel on those policies so that the apparent violations of veterans' rights described in this resolution do not occur again; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that the United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs provide each member of the Alaska State Legislature with a written assurance that the actions of the Veterans Health Administration officials described in this resolution do not reflect the policies on holiday practices at Veterans Health Administration facilities.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S.

House of Representatives; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs; the Honorable Richard Burr, Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs; the Honorable Eric K. Shinseki, United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Verdine Bowen, Director, Office of Veterans Affairs, Alaska Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs; Susan Yeager, Director, Alaska VA Healthcare System; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

H.R. 1447. A bill to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1744. A bill to strengthen the accountability of individuals involved in misconduct affecting the integrity of background investigations, to update guidelines for security clearances, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LEAHY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2520. A bill to improve the Freedom of Information Act.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. LEAHY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Jorge Luis Alonso, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Haywood Stirling Gilliam, Jr., of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Amit Priyavadan Mehta, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Allison Dale Burroughs, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Jeanne E. Davidson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

John Robert Blakey, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Amos L. Mazzant, III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Robert Lee Pitman, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Robert William Schroeder III, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 2947. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to clarify the authority of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to prescribe just, reasonable, and not unduly discriminatory or preferential terms, conditions, and compensation applicable to wholesale demand response resource participation in organized wholesale energy, capacity, and ancillary service markets; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANDERS:

S. 2948. A bill to extend the requirement that drug manufacturers that increase prices faster than inflation pay an additional rebate to State Medicaid programs to include manufacturers of generic drugs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. NELSON, Mr. HELLER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2949. A bill to improve motor vehicle safety by encouraging the sharing of certain information; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 2950. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Physician Ambassadors Helping Veterans program to seek to employ physicians at the Department of Veterans Affairs on a without compensation basis in practice areas and specialties with staffing shortages and long appointment waiting times; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HELLER:

S. 2951. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is informed of the interment of deceased veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 2952. A bill to establish the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 2953. A bill to prohibit an alien who is a national of a country with a widespread Ebola virus outbreak from obtaining a visa and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2954. A bill to improve the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. FRANKEN):

S. 2955. A bill to revise the Inland Waterways Trust Fund financing rate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2956. A bill to prevent caller ID spoofing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 2957. A bill to limit the disturbance to American families caused by electioneering phone calls by expanding the National Do Not Call Registry to include Super PACs and other third-party political groups, to prohibit robo-calls to Americans who have listed their telephone numbers on the Registry,