SENATE RESOLUTION 239—COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE OF THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 239

Whereas the Virginia General Assembly, with Professor Donald W. Davis of the College of William & Mary, envisioned a center for marine research and education in the Commonwealth of Virginia;

Whereas the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (referred to in this preamble as ''VIMS''), originally known as the Virginia Fisheries Laboratory, began operation in 1940;

Whereas the early work of VIMS assured the future of the fishery industry in Virginia by improving the general knowledge of the resources of fisheries so that they might be properly conserved and managed, and by meeting the need for training in practical marine biology;

Whereas VIMS is now the home of the School of Marine Sciences of the College of William & Mary, a university research and teaching center with a strong element of public service, and is the leading marine center that focuses on estuarine and coastal environments in the nation; and

Whereas VIMS continues to serve the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States by advancing the frontiers of marine science and sharing the knowledge gained through research with the users and stewards of the environment and future scientists: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the College of William & Mary and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science on the 75th anniversary of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science; and

(2) expresses appreciation for the 75 years of service to the environment by the faculty, staff, and students of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and the School of Marine Sciences of the College of William & Mary.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, Virginia has a proud tradition of academic excellence dating back to Thomas Jefferson and a deep appreciation for our beautiful and bountiful coastal waters that predates that. For 75 years, one Virginia academic institution has built a sterling reputation as a national leader in environmental education and a trusted source of information and analysis for generations of policymakers. The Virginia Institute of Marine Science at the College of William & Mary is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2015. I am proud to join my bipartisan colleagues Senator MARK WARNER and Congressman ROB WITTMAN in submitting a resolution to commemorate this milestone.

VIMS research has yielded critical insights into the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers, informing the work of Virginia and other Chesapeake Bay States in striving to reduce pollution while growing outdoor recreation and the economic activity that goes with it. It has produced data and analysis that has contributed to the development of strategies to maintain robust oyster and crab populations, particularly through cooperative partnership with Virginia's commercial watermen. It has also developed technology and expertise that allows more precise projections than ever before of rates of sea level rise and recurrent flooding in the Hampton Roads region.

Elected officials of both parties and at all levels of government in Virginia have benefitted from the expertise and objectivity that this institution brings to environmental policy. I was fortunate to have access to this valuable scientific asset as Governor of Virginia, and I continue to consider its thoughtful views on policy issues that come before Congress.

I congratulate VIMS for 75 years of dedication to academic excellence and scientific achievement.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2542. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 22, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

SA 2543. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1172, to improve the process of presidential transition.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2542. Mr. MCCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 22, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: ''To authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.''.

SA 2543. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1172, to improve the process of presidential transition; as follows:

On page 7, strike lines 11 through 16 and insert the following:

''(A) the Federal Transition Coordinator and the Deputy Director for Management of the Office of Management and Budget, who shall serve as Co-Chairpersons of the agency transition directors council;

''(B) other senior employees serving in the Executive Office of the President, as determined by the President;

On page 8, lines 2 and 3, strike ''Federal Transition Coordinator'' and insert ''Co-Chairpersons''.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER. The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet during the session of the Senate on August 5, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Reauthorizing the Higher Education Act: Opportunities to Improve Student Success.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Jake Baker of the committee staff on (202) 224–8484.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet in executive session on Thursday, August 6, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to mark up S. 799 Protecting Our Infants Act of 2015, S. 1893 Mental Health Awareness and Improvement Act of 2015, S. 481 Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act, the Nomination of Dr. Karen DeSalvo to be Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services, the Dr. Kathryn Matthew to be Director, Institute of Museum and Library Services, the nomination of W. Thomas Reeder, Jr. to be Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, and the nomination of Walter Barrows to be Member, Railroad Retirement Board; as well as any additional nominations cleared for action.

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact the Committee at (202) 224–5375.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 30, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 30, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 30, 2015, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Sanctions and the JCPOA.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on July 30, 2015, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled ''Nominations.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.