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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, FEBRUARY 1, 2016

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM EMMER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair would now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess.

☐ 1400

AFTER RECESS
The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. COMSTOCK) at 2 p.m.

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

Merciful God, through whom we see what we could be and what we can become, thank You for giving us another day.

Send Your spirit upon the Members of this people’s House to encourage them in their official tasks. Be with them and with all who labor here to serve this great Nation and its people.

Assure them that whatever their responsibilities, You provide the grace to enable them to be faithful in their duties and the wisdom to be conscious of their obligations and fulfill them with integrity.

Remind us all of the dignity of work, and teach us to use our talents and abilities in ways that are honorable and just and are of benefit to those we serve.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

STATE OF THE UNION INCONSISTENCIES
(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the President’s actions are inconsistent with his words of the State of the Union.

His praise of job growth is undermined by ObamaCare, which the OMB has identified will destroy over 2 million jobs.

His concerns for more gun control was a contradiction at the Capitol, which was properly awash with brave officers protecting everyone with guns.

His distortion of voter photo identification laws clashes with the requirement of visitor photo identification to enter the White House. Security to prevent voter fraud and security to prevent assault on our President are basic for democracy.

His professed opposition to ISIS terrorists is undermined by his pardoning prisoners from Guantanamo who will rejoin terrorists to kill American families using guns.

His devotion to Syrian refugees was sadly undermined by his failure to enforce a red line, resulting in children fleeing violence drowning at sea.

Finally, as I left the Capitol from the speech, I saw immediate inconsistency of a fleet of stretch limousines waiting for the President. As he attacked the oil and gas industry, he departed thanks to fuel developed by the oil and gas industry.

The President should change course for limited government and expanded freedom.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and the President, by his actions, should never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

RECESS
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:15 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o’clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.
FAIR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERTS ACT

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise its regulations regarding the qualifications of natural persons as accredited investors, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2187

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 "Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF ACCREDITED INVESTOR.

Section 2(a)(15) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)(15) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (F), respectively;

(2) in subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking ""; or"" and inserting a semicolon, and inserting after such subparagraph the following—

""(B) any natural person whose individual net worth, or joint net worth with that person’s spouse, exceeds $1,000,000 (which amount, along with the amounts set forth in subparagraph (C), shall be adjusted for inflation by the Commission every five years to the nearest $10,000 to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics) or, for purposes of calculating net worth under this subparagraph—

""(i) the person’s primary residence shall not be included as an asset;

(ii) indebtedness that is secured by the person’s primary residence, up to the estimated fair market value of the primary residence at the time of the sale of securities, shall not be included as a liability (except that if the amount of such indebtedness outstanding at the time of sale of securities exceeds the amount outstanding 60 days before such time, other than as a result of the acquisition of the primary residence, the amount of such excess shall be included as a liability); and

(iii) indebtedness that is secured by the person’s primary residence in excess of the estimated fair market value of the primary residence at the time of the sale of securities shall be included as a liability (except that if the person’s primary residence is sold within 3 years after the sale of securities, the balance of the amount incurred after the sale shall be included as a liability);

""(C) any natural person who had an individual income in excess of $200,000 in each of the two most recent years or joint income with that person’s spouse in excess of $300,000 in each of those years and has a reasonable expectation of reaching the same income level in the current year;

""(D) any natural person who is currently licensed or registered as a broker or investment adviser by the Commission, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or an equivalent self-regulatory organization (as defined in section 3(a)(26) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934), or the securities division of a State or the equivalent State division responsible for licensing or registration of individuals in connection with securities activities;

""(E) any natural person the Commission determines, by regulation, to have demonstrable education or job experience to qualify such person as having professional knowledge of a subject related to a particular investment, and whose education or job experience is verified by the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority or an equivalent self-regulatory organization (as defined in section 3(a)(26) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934); or

""(F) any natural person the Commission determines, by regulation, to have demonstrable education or job experience that person’s primary residence in excess of the estimated fair market value of the primary residence at the time of the sale of securities shall not be included as an asset (except that if the amount of such indebtedness outstanding at the time of sale of securities exceeds the amount outstanding 60 days before such time, other than as a result of the acquisition of the primary residence, the amount of such excess shall be included as a liability); and

""(G) any natural person whose individual net worth, or joint net worth with that person’s spouse, exceeds $1,000,000 (which amount, along with the amounts set forth in subparagraph (C), shall be adjusted for inflation by the Commission every five years to the nearest $10,000 to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics) or, for purposes of calculating net worth under this subparagraph—

""(i) the person’s primary residence shall not be included as an asset;

(ii) indebtedness that is secured by the person’s primary residence, up to the estimated fair market value of the primary residence at the time of the sale of securities, shall not be included as a liability (except that if the amount of such indebtedness outstanding at the time of sale of securities exceeds the amount outstanding 60 days before such time, other than as a result of the acquisition of the primary residence, the amount of such excess shall be included as a liability); and

(iii) indebtedness that is secured by the person’s primary residence in excess of the estimated fair market value of the primary residence at the time of the sale of securities shall be included as a liability (except that if the person’s primary residence is sold within 3 years after the sale of securities, the balance of the amount incurred after the sale shall be included as a liability).

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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous materials on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY) each will control 20 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2187, the Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act.

I would like to thank Mr. SCHWEIKERT from Arizona for his diligent work on this bill and members on both sides of the aisle who approved this bill in the Financial Services Committee by an overwhelming vote of 54–2.

Mr. Speaker, small and emerging companies play a significant role as drivers of the U.S. economic activity, innovation, and job creation. In fact, most of the net jobs created in the U.S. are from companies less than 5 years old. Most of these companies are privately held companies, and their ability to raise capital in the private market is critical to the economic well-being of the U.S. and millions of American families.

But in order for small companies to raise capital in the private market, under SEC regulations they must sell securities to accredited investors. And what exactly determines whether an investor is accredited? Well, the SEC has for years determined that an individual investor’s financial status should be the sole proxy for determining whether or not they are able to understand the risks and rewards.

In other words, the SEC has taken the position that only very wealthy individuals should be allowed to invest in private offerings. That really makes very little sense.

Under the SEC’s logic, a random winner of the Powerball lottery would be both publicly and self-acknowledged investor. But an individual who holds advanced degrees and works in finance or a related field, but who happens to make slightly below what the SEC’s threshold is, that person would be barred from investing in private offerings.

You see, despite the paternalistic view taken by Washington regulators, there are plenty—plenty—of hard-working and smart Americans who are plenty capable of understanding investments in private businesses.

Congress must, therefore, amend the definition of “accredited investor” in order to expand the pool of potential investors in a private placement market.

H.R. 2187 will do just that by codifying the current accredited investor income and net worth thresholds, adjusted for inflation going forward. Additionally, it will extend accredited investor status to persons who the SEC determines have a demonstrable education or job experience to qualify as having professional subject matter knowledge related to that investment.

In other words, the expansion of the accredited definition will enhance small companies’ ability to raise capital and to grow by increasing the pool of potential investors, while at the same time increase investment opportunities for more Americans. In fact, allowing more individuals to invest in both public and private companies could ultimately have the effect of decreasing the risk in these portfolios themselves.

Finally, as SEC Commissioner Mike Piwowar pointed out in a speech last year:

“By holding a diversified portfolio of assets, investors reap the benefits of diversification, that is, the risk of the portfolio as a whole is lower than the risk of any individual asset...if the correlations are low enough, the overall portfolio risk could actually decrease.”

Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CARNEY).
The current definition focuses only on financial status and knowledge. Because of significant costs and barriers to raising capital in the U.S. public markets, many of our small companies raise start-up funds or expansion funds in the private market, and many of those private market transactions are through accredited investors.

The current definition focuses only on financial status and knowledge. Because of significant costs and barriers to raising capital in the U.S. public markets, many of our small companies raise start-up funds or expansion funds in the private market, and many of those private market transactions are through accredited investors.

The current definition focuses only on financial status and knowledge. Because of significant costs and barriers to raising capital in the U.S. public markets, many of our small companies raise start-up funds or expansion funds in the private market, and many of those private market transactions are through accredited investors.

The current definition focuses only on financial status and knowledge. Because of significant costs and barriers to raising capital in the U.S. public markets, many of our small companies raise start-up funds or expansion funds in the private market, and many of those private market transactions are through accredited investors.
U.S.C. 78d) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(j) OFFICE OF THE ADVOCATE FOR SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Commission the Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation (hereafter in this subsection referred to as the 'Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation').

"(2) ADVOCATE FOR SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of the Office shall be the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation, who shall—

"(i) report directly to the Commission; and

"(ii) be appointed by the Commission, for a term of 5 years, from among individuals having experience in advocating for the interests of small businesses and encouraging small business capital formation.

"(B) COMPENSATION.—The annual rate of pay for the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation shall be equal to the highest rate of pay for other senior executives who report directly to the Commission.

"(C) NO CURRENT EMPLOYEE OF THE COMMISSION.—An individual may not be appointed as the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation if the individual is currently employed by the Commission.

"(D) AUTHORITY.—The Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation, after consultation with the Commission, may retain or employ independent counsel, research staff, or any other contractors or agents, to assist the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation to carry out the functions of the Office.

"(E) FUNCTIONS OF THE ADVOCATE FOR SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION.—The Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation shall—

"(i) assist small businesses and small business investors in resolving significant problems such businesses and investors may have with the Commission or with self-regulatory organizations; or

"(ii) identify areas in which small businesses and small business investors would benefit from changes in the regulations of the Commission or the rules of self-regulatory organizations.

"(F) IDENTIFY PROBLEMS.—The Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation shall—

"(i) analyze the potential impact on small businesses and small business investors of—

"(I) proposed regulations of the Commission that are likely to have a significant economic impact on small businesses and small business investors;

"(II) the professional advisors of such companies; and

"(III) the pre-IPO and post-IPO investors included among individuals—

"(I) emerging companies engaging in private placements of new capital or registered offerings and initial public offerings of emerging, privately held companies (including attorneys, auditors, underwriters, and financial advisors); and

"(ii) emerging companies engaged in private placements of new capital or registered offerings or considering initial public offerings of 'IPO' (including the companies’ officers and directors) and

"(III) the investors in such companies (including angel investors, venture capital funds, and family offices);

"(G) CONSULT WITH ADVOCATE.—The Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation shall consult with the Investor Advocate on proposed regulations made under subparagraph (F); and

"(H) ADVISE INVESTOR ADVOCATE.—The Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation shall advise the Investor Advocate on issues related to small businesses and small business investors.

"(5) ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS.—The Commission shall ensure that the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation has full access to the documents and information of the Commission and any self-regulatory organization, as necessary to carry out the functions of such Advocate.

"(6) ANNUAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31 of each year after 2015, the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives a report on the activities of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation during the immediately preceding fiscal year.

"(B) CONTENTS.—Each report required under subparagraph (A) shall include—

"(i) appropriate statistical information and full and substantive analysis;

"(ii) information on steps that the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation has taken during the reporting period to improve small business services and the responsiveness of the Commission and self-regulatory organizations to small business and small business investor concerns;

"(III) the pre-IPO and post-IPO investors included among individuals—

"(I) emerging companies engaging in private placements of new capital or registered offerings and initial public offerings;

"(ii) emerging companies engaged in private placements of new capital or registered offerings or considering initial public offerings of 'IPO' (including the companies’ officers and directors) and

"(III) the investors in such companies (including angel investors, venture capital funds, and family offices); and

"(ii) who are officers or directors of minority-owned and women-owned small businesses; and

"(iii) who represent—

"(I) emerging companies engaging in private placements of new capital or registered offerings or considering initial public offerings of 'IPO' (including the companies’ officers and directors) and

"(II) the professional advisors of such companies (including attorneys, accountants, investment bankers, and financial advisors); and

"(III) the investors in such companies (including angel investors, venture capital funds, and family offices);

"(3) non-voting members—
Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of H.R. 3784, the SEC Small Business Advocate Act. I would like to thank the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY) of the Financial Services Committee, as well as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) of the Appropriations Committee, for working together in a bipartisan manner on this bill. In doing so, it has resulted in the Financial Services Committee’s favorably reporting H.R. 3784 out of committee by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Speaker, the SEC has a three-part mission: to protect investors, to maintain fair and orderly and efficient markets, and to also facilitate capital formation. Yet, if you think about it, the SEC is now, for the first time, being asked to shift the capital formation part of its statutory mandate, and it is to the detriment of entrepreneurs and to the startups.

Although small companies are at the proverbial forefront of technological innovation and also of job creation, they often face significant obstacles in obtaining the necessary capital and funding. These obstacles, if you will, are often attributable to the proportionally large burden that security regulation places on them. They are often written for large public companies, and they are placed then on small companies which then seek to go public.

By failing to fulfill this important part of its mandated mission, the SEC is basically creating a vacuum, most notably through the enactment of the JOBS Act back in 2012. You see, while the JOBS Act has made it easier for these companies to go public, the JOBS Act alone has not been enough. It has not been enough to entirely overcome all of the obstacles that the companies face in trying to go public.

So now we have H.R. 3784. It creates the SEC Small Business Advocate, and he will provide an independent voice for small business capital formation on par with the SEC’s investor advocate. This new advocate will support the interests of small businesses and provide guidance to the SEC on advising the JOBS Act capital formation agenda, something that, unfortunately, if you look at the track record, the SEC has failed to do for years. The small business advocate will support the interests not only of entrepreneurs and job creators, but they will do so also on behalf of investors.

Finally, it is clear that fundamental change is needed within the SEC in order to get this agency to focus on the capital formation mandate. H.R. 3784 will provide a permanent voice for small businesses at the SEC, and it will help them ensure that the SEC does not neglect, anymore, this important mandate in the future.

I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 3784 in a bipartisan manner, just as was done in committee.

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I begin by thanking all of those who have worked with us to introduce and to improve this legislation. I especially want to thank my colleague and friend, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY), who will speak in a minute, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), and all of our other cosponsors, as well as the SEC, for their work on this bill. Due to their hard work, the bipartisan work on our committee, this legislation received a unanimous vote out of committee, as the gentleman from New Jersey pointed out.

Mr. Speaker, small businesses are the cornerstone of our communities, and they are a major driver of American economic job growth. In fact, small businesses create over 60 percent of new jobs in the United States, which is the main point here. If we want to help our economy grow and create jobs, we need to help small businesses.

From one’s employment to one’s shopping needs, every American relies on small business in some way or another. Given the crucial part they play in our economy, ensuring their success just makes common sense. That is what this bill is—just a commonsense, bipartisan bill to help small businesses across our great country.

Despite the important role that small businesses have in driving economic growth and job creation, they can be underrepresented in conversations about regulations affecting them at every level of government, and their
concerns are not always heard. This doesn’t just harm small businesses. It can also adversely impact investors and the public at large.

The SEC has done an admirable job in supporting and in advancing the priorities of small business. In passing the JOBS Act, which created the SEC Small Business Advocate Act, simply gives the SEC more tools to understand their needs and concerns. The SEC Small Business Advocate Act mirrors provisions found in the Dodd-Frank bill, which created the current Office of the Investor Advocate.

This advocate would open clear avenues of communication to SEC leadership on issues affecting small-business owners, investors, and stakeholders. It would also help continue the reforms and progress that Congress made in passing the JOBS Act, which the gentleman from Wisconsin mentioned, including with issues such as equity crowdfunding and ideas for venture exchange changes that tick size, which the gentleman from Wisconsin and I have worked on over the past year.

With the resources provided in H.R. 3784, the SEC will have the ability to pursue the balance of regulatory improvements that could significantly improve outcomes for small businesses and help them with their access to capital, which is needed to grow and create jobs.

I am very encouraged that the House has chosen to take up this bipartisan piece of legislation today and that we are moving forward to ensure a voice for small business at the SEC.

As the SEC for its help on this issue and a special thanks to my friend and colleague, Congressman Duffy.

I urge all of my colleagues, as the members of the Financial Services Committee have, to vote “yes” on this legislation.

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

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Quigley).

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, given that small businesses have accounted for over 60 percent of the net new jobs created since the end of the recession, we should be doing more to simplify regulatory compliance so that small businesses can direct their resources to what they do best: innovating and growing our economy.

Small businesses and small business investors were not the cause of the financial crisis and do not pose a significant risk to the rest of the economy. Yet, regulators like the SEC, which oversees the financial markets, often craft regulations by which the costs to small businesses far outweigh the minimal benefits they may have on our economy. We need our regulators to take the concerns of small businesses seriously and to make small business growth a top priority.

That is why I was proud to coauthor the SEC Small Business Advocate Act, which will establish an Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation within the SEC. This office will open a clear avenue of communication to the SEC leadership on issues affecting small businesses by maintaining a designated representative to advocate on their needs.

This advocate will be responsible for helping small businesses resolve problems with the SEC, analyzing the potential impact of proposed rules and regulations on small businesses, and reaching out to small business owners to understand issues related to capital formation.

In addition, this bill formalizes the Advisory Committee on Small and Emerging Companies, which provides members of the small business community with another mechanism to communicate their concerns with the SEC. This legislation will not only improve the regulatory process for small-business owners, but also for the everyday investors and consumers who depend on them.

This legislation has widespread support from representatives of the business community, and it passed unanimously out of committee. I urge my colleagues to empower small-business owners and entrepreneurs and support this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I close by again asking my colleagues to follow the example of the Financial Services Committee and vote unanimously to support this bill, which will help small businesses to access capital and to get the advice they need from the SEC.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again, I commend the gentleman for his work on this legislation and for the bipartisanship of this bill, which, actually, that will be coming out of committee in a bipartisan manner.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 4168, the Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) for their bipartisan work on this bill. I go off script here just to say thank you very much to Mr. Poliquin, who has been a very active member on this committee from the very beginning and has been very active in making sure this legislation has come to the floor today. I thank the gentleman.

As I said before, this bill came out of committee, due mainly to the gentleman’s work, with an overwhelming bipartisan vote. I believe it was 55–1; so the gentleman just has that one to work on for his next piece of legislation that comes out of committee.

Mr. Speaker, Congress created the SEC Government-Business Forum on Small Business Capital Formation—to do what?—to provide a platform to identify unnecessary impediments to small business capital formation and to find ways to eliminate or to reduce them. Each forum seeks to develop recommendations for government and private action to improve and provide the
environment for small business capital formation, thereby providing small businesses the opportunity—to do what?—to grow economically and, most importantly, as we have been talking all day, to create more jobs.

Undoubtedly, the SEC’s difficult position over these several years has been to simultaneously and summarily ignore many of the recommendations made by the various forum participants, which include small businesses, venture capitalists, trade association representatives, accountants, academics, and other small business academics.

Despite the claims of which we hear every year from the Congress about the importance of this forum, it seems that the only time the SEC actually implements one of these capital formation agenda items that comes out of it is when Congress tells it to do so. This was certainly the case with several provisions of the JOBS Act, many of which, as one will recall, were original recommendations from that very same forum. I will give two examples. There was the crowdfunding and the Regulation A, both provisions of the JOBS Act. They basically mirrored the forum’s recommendations years earlier.

The Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act, which is before us today, provides an answer. It basically provides a simple solution to making the SEC more responsive. It requires the SEC to respond publicly and in writing to every forum recommendation and to simply explain whether it plans to take action on that item or not.

It really shouldn’t take an act of Congress for the SEC to fulfill its basic capital formation mission. Quite honestly, it shouldn’t take an act of Congress for the SEC to simply respond in writing to any of the forum recommendations. Unfortunately, this is the position we find ourselves in today; so we have H.R. 4168, which is the gentleman from Maine’s work, which will ensure that the SEC no longer ignores these recommendations and will be able to help fulfill its statutory mission to facilitate capital formation in this country.

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

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

I would like to extend my thanks and congratulations as well to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. POLIQUIN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) for their bipartisan work on this bill. This legislation, as was pointed out earlier, the SEC details Financial Services Committee with all but one vote.

The SEC’s Government-Business Forum on Capital Formation brings together academia, government officials, legal experts, and business stakeholders to make recommendations to improve and facilitate small-business capital formation.

By directly addressing the recommendations of the forum, the SEC will help refine ideas and provide future forums with opportunities to address the SEC’s views or concerns, ultimately leading to a more constructive and valuable dialogue. This legislation will enhance the role of the forum and assist the SEC to focus on the capital needs of small businesses, which, as we have discussed several times today, are the main drivers of job creation in our economy, while simultaneously encouraging participants to substantively engage in the forum.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this bipartisan piece of legislation and thank the sponsors for their hard work.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I have already given him compliments, as many as I am going to give on the floor. I yield such time as he may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. POLIQUIN because he has been an outstanding member of the committee and is the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GARRETT for bringing this important bill to the floor. I also want to extend my congratulations to Congressman JUAN VARGAS of California. He has done a terrific job being the lead cosponsor of the Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act.

All of us in this Chamber who also are small-business owners understand how important it is to have access to money, to funds, to capital, in order for our businesses to be successful, to grow, and ultimately to hire more people. This is true in Maine’s Second District that I represent and also across the country.

It is all about jobs. Unless your business grows and expands, then you don’t have jobs. That is very important. We have to have that key ingredient to small-business growth, which is access to capital or to money.

Now, if you are one of the greatest papermakers in the world—and we have a lot, Mr. Speaker, up in Maine’s Second District—and you work for a paper company up in Madawaska, Maine, or Madison, Maine, you still depend on your company—it might not be a small company—to make sure you have access to the banks to borrow the funds you need to expand and be successful, and to make sure we can secure your job.

Now, if you are a small-business owner, who really dominates the landscape in Maine and across the country—let’s say you are a boatbuilder in Ellsworth, Maine—you still need access to capital in order to grow. If you are a biotech startup company in Lewiston, Maine, the same holds true.

You know, 80 percent of the new jobs created in our country today are not large companies, but they are small companies. That is where the problem lies as far as access to funding is concerned. I am not worried as much about the big companies having access to the capital markets, but I do worry about our small businesses.

Now, as both Mr. CARNEY and Mr. GARRETT have outlined, during each of the past 35 years, the Securities and Exchange Commission, by law, has been required and has put together an annual government-business forum.

During this annual meeting, they get the very best of the experts—professionals they can find—business owners, SEC attorneys, private sector attorneys—to review the current laws we have on the books today to make sure that they are not impeding our small businesses’ ability to borrow money and have access to capital in other ways.

Now, these forums also are a tremendous incubator of coming up with new ideas to make sure our laws evolve. Our capital markets, Mr. Speaker, in our economy are very dynamic. Business growth and the new products are offered and sold. So there are new needs for capital going forward. We have to make sure that the actual laws that are the underpinning of our capital markets, the underpinning of our economy, are also evolving. So these annual business-government forums are very important venues for this to happen.

Now, as has been said here earlier, unfortunately, the SEC has no legal requirement to make sure those terrific recommendations that come out of these annual forums are acted upon or not. In fact, it is very common for the SEC not to comment at all on all of the work done to bring these new ideas to the forefront.

So my legislation, I am proud to say, comes up with a very commonsense fix. It simply requires the SEC to make a public statement on what it is going to do to embrace these recommendations or not. It is very simple. Otherwise, these ideas, Mr. Speaker, sit on the shelf.

Now, my bill also has the ancillary benefit of making sure that each new forum each year doesn’t repeat what we just did the year before. By having a benchmark every year, by addressing the recommendations that come out of these meetings, then we are able to spring forward and move down the path where we left off the year before.

I want to thank the Speaker and the chairman very much for bringing this important bill to the floor. I am delighted to work with Mr. VARGAS on this. He has done one heck of a job.

It is so important for everybody in this Chamber to please stand up for small businesses across the country, to make sure they have access to the money they need to grow, be successful, and hire more workers. It is all about jobs.

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank and congratulate the sponsor and co-sponsor again. I have no further requests for time.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER).

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, small businesses are critical to job creation and sustainable economic growth in America. In my home State of Minnesota, 1.2 million workers—nearly half of our State's private workforce—is employed by a small business. When one of the more than 500,000 small businesses in Minnesota contacts our office, it is most often about how well-intended, yet short-sighted, regulations are inhibiting their ability to utilize the financial products they rely on. In order to ensure the creation and growth of small business, it is imperative that we do our job in Washington to make certain they have access to the capital they need.

Since 1980, the Securities and Exchange Commission has been required to conduct a government-business forum each year to present and discuss ways to improve small business capital formation. However, the SEC is under no legal obligation, as we have heard several times today, to respond to any of the findings or recommendations that come out of these forums.

That is why the Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act is so important. The proposed legislation will require the SEC to respond to the findings and recommendations made at these annual government-business forums. This will ensure that the ideas formulated at these government-business forums will be carefully considered at the SEC and possibly even implemented.

I want to thank Representatives BRUCE POLIQUIN and JUAN VARGAS for their hard work on behalf of consumers and small businesses.

I urge my colleagues to support the Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2209.

The question was taken.

The Speaker recognized the gentleman from New Jersey.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

TREATMENT OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL OBLIGATIONS

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2209) to amend the appropriate Federal banking agencies to treat certain municipal obligations as level 2A liquid assets, and for other purposes.

Mr. Speaker, the current definition of ‘investment grade’ municipal obligations is confusing and inconsistent. The current definition of ‘investment grade’ is a combination of the Federal Reserve’s ‘investment grade’ standards and the Comptroller of the Currency’s ‘investment grade’ standards—two definitions established under the Federal Reserve’s Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) rule and the Comptroller of the Currency’s Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) rule.

The LCR was established in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis to ensure banks have enough liquid assets to meet unexpected demands. The LCR rule was established by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision and implemented by the United States banking regulators in 2014.

However, the LCR rule has been criticized for being overly conservative and for not being consistent with other regulatory standards. This has led to confusion and inconsistency in the treatment of certain municipal obligations.

The Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act seeks to address this issue by amending the appropriate Federal banking agencies to treat certain municipal obligations as level 2A liquid assets, and for other purposes.

Mr. Speaker, given the problems posed by insufficient liquidity during the most recent financial crisis, Federal regulators issued a final rule back in 2014 to implement something called liquidity coverage ratio, or LCR. That was being done consistent with something called the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision’s standards.

The LCR was established on the premise that banks should have enough cash or assets that would be liquid enough when they needed them—and that would be defined as high-quality liquid assets, or HQLAs—and that we have to have them on hand for 30 days if their usual sources of short-term funding would simply disappear.

It goes without saying, when you think about this, that anytime the government steps in, or anytime you have a government agency favoring this type of asset over this type of asset through some sort of regulation in which they did it, you are going to end up with what? You are going to end up with basically unintended and undesirable consequences. That is what has happened here.

Not surprisingly, critics of the LCR have complained that the stock of HQLAs is defined too narrowly, which could adversely impact the asset classes that we are talking about.

So investment-grade municipal securities, on the other hand, if you look at them closely—more than we could do right here on the floor right now—they basically share the same liquidity characteristics as HQLAs. And that is what Mr. MESSER basically is trying to address with this great piece of legislation.

Other HQLAs, such as corporate bonds and equity securities, have the basic same characteristic here as far as liquidity goes. Yet, the prudential regulators, what do they do? They put them in one pile and excluded them from the final LCR.

While the Federal Reserve has acknowledged this problem and they acknowledge the fault in excluding municipal securities from this definition of HQLAs, the Federal Reserve’s rule would only apply to the bank holding company’s municipal securities and not the national banks, where more of these municipal securities are held.

Paul Kupiec, who is over at the American Enterprise Institute, in testimony before our committee back in October of last year on the bill, said it is appropriate and consistent with the public interest. There is no reason why high quality liquid bonds issued by the U.S. States and municipalities should receive a lower standing than foreign partisans.
sovereign debt with equivalent (or even lesser) credit quality and market liquidity.”

Think about that for a minute. We are basically, under the current situation, treating our municipalities and U.S. securities at a lower standard than foreign such securities, and we know how they have prevailed in the last few years.

With that in mind, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2209, and the hard work of Mr. MESSER, as well, in this legislation.

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support today for H.R. 2209. In sum, this bill levels the playing field for cities and States by 15 basis points, which would save cities and States hundreds of millions of dollars per year. That real-world impact is why this bill is so very, very important.

Now, it is important to note that this bill does not undermine safety and soundness. It does not require regulators to treat bonds that are illiquid as liquid. It simply says that municipal bonds should be afforded the same opportunity as corporate bonds.

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

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such additional time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill. It will help the economy. It will help our cities and States. It levels the playing field for cities and States. It saves our cities and States, literally, hundreds of millions of dollars, and it maintains the safety and soundness of our banking system. That is why it had such a strong, overwhelming bipartisan vote in committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER), the sponsor of this piece of legislation.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, Mr. CARNEY, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York for their leadership on this bill.

What would you think if I told you that the Federal Government bureaucracy is favoring foreign bonds and corporate bonds over identically valued U.S. municipal bonds? It wouldn’t make any sense.

Our Federal bureaucracy shouldn’t create rules that favor loans to foreign countries over loans to our own local governments and schools, yet that is exactly what is happening under our broken Federal regulatory scheme.

Today’s bill, H.R. 2209, would correct this problem. I am proud to have coauthored this bipartisan bill with my friend, Congresswoman MALONEY. I also want to thank my good friends—Mr. POLIOQUIN, Mr. PEARCE, the chairman, and others—who helped us in working on this bill. I ask my colleagues for their support.

It is really just common sense. U.S. municipal bonds are among the safest investments in the entire world. According to Municipal Market Analytics, over the last 5 years—a period, by the way, during which State and local governments struggled to recover from the recession—high-quality State and local government obligation defaults were only four one-thousandths of 1 percent. Let me repeat that. The municipal bond default rate was four one-thousandths of 1 percent during the recession. That is a pretty safe investment.

Public entities depend on this financi—State and local governments, school corporations, and public utility companies across the U.S. sell municipal bonds to finance the infrastructure and services that we all depend on. It is low-interest municipal bonds that finance new schools, hospitals, bridges, and roads, and pay for the repair of outdated and failing infrastructure. The needs are great.

In fact, according to the Society of Civil Engineers, State and local governments need $3.6 trillion to meet their infrastructure needs over the next 5 years. That is what is so disappointing about recent regulatory rules from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Federal Reserve that will arbitrarily increase the costs for local governments and schools to borrow.

Specifically, as others have described, in 2014, Federal banking regulators issued a rule requiring banks to have enough high-quality liquid assets, HQLAs, to cover their cash outflows for 30 days in case of a future financial meltdown. For the most part, liquidity set-asides protect the consumer, and they make sense.

The problem is, in the same rule, they said that investment-grade U.S. municipal bonds don’t count as HQLAs, while recognizing German subsovereign municipal debt and many corporate bonds as high-quality liquid assets that do qualify. That doesn’t make any sense at all.

By excluding all American municipal securities from HQLA eligibility, financial institutions are discouraged from holding them. The result is increased interest rates and increased borrowing costs for State and local governments and the taxpayers that pay them.

This has a real impact on families when schools can no longer accommodate enrollment and local communities
when bridges crumble or roads fail because repair and new construction simply isn’t financially feasible. This is particularly troubling because times are tough and budgets are tight across America.

Although the Federal Reserve continues to review this issue, so far the Fed’s response has been partial and inadequate. The OCC and the FDIC have not addressed the issue at all. Meanwhile, our local governments remain strapped for cash and cannot wait for a bureaucratic solution.

Our commonsense bill, H.R. 2209, fixes this arbitrary decision by Federal regulators. The bill directs the FDIC, the Federal Reserve System, and the OCC to classify investment-grade municipal securities as level 2A, high-quality liquid assets.

Put simply, our bill requires the Federal Government to recognize the obvious: America’s municipal bonds are some of the safest investments in the world and we shouldn’t have rules that give preferential treatment to corporate bonds or other countries’ bonds over our own.

I want to thank Congresswoman Maloney for working with me on this commonsense legislation.

I urge all my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

For those who work in the bond world, this bill ensures that a 2A asset is treated as a 2A asset and prevents federal regulators from arbitrarily under-valuing them.

Lastly, let me be clear, this bill doesn’t give special treatment to our local governments’ bonds.

State and local governments remain required to satisfy their debts and live with their bond ratings.

This bill is, however, a comprehensive solution that restores fairness and recognizes investment-grade municipal bonds for exactly what they are: safe, reliable investments that allow local governments to serve citizens and investors around the world. That would allow us to receive and secure the funding we need to, in fact, repair our roads and bridges. Maybe a small town needs to improve its sewage treatment facility or to improve its water treatment facility. Well, these high-quality, liquid municipal bonds provide the funds to do just that.

It is my opinion that banking regulators have made a mistake, Mr. Speaker, because they include in the liquidity coverage ratio stocks and corporate bonds and other government bonds, but they have left out high-quality liquid, tax-free municipal bonds from that list of securities that will qualify for the liquidity coverage ratio.

As has been mentioned here earlier, sir, the municipal bond market in this country is a $3.7 trillion market. There are thousands of these bonds held in the hands of investors around the world. It is clearly right and appropriate for these bonds to be included in this list of assets such that banks can reach their liquidity coverage ratio.

In doing that, Mr. Speaker, and in fixing this problem that Mr. Messer and Congresswoman Maloney have found, in passing H.R. 2209, State and local governments across the country will continue to be able to have the funds they need to repair their own bridges and roads, not just those in Maine. This will keep interest payments down for our State and local governments, saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

One of the goals of government, of course, is to show fairness and compassion for those that pay the bills, the taxpayers across America.

I am rising in support of this bill, H.R. 2209. I encourage all my colleagues in the House, Republicans and Democrats, to please do the same.

Again, I congratulate the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Messer) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney) for their great work.

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

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I would just close by thanking the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Messer) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney) for their work on this commonsense piece of legislation that will help towns, municipalities, and States across our country.

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

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I have two additional speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. Pearce).

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Messer and Mrs. Maloney for producing this balanced, bipartisan piece of legislation.

The State of New Mexico has a geographical area about the same as five Northeastern States. That area, though, has 55 million people to pay the taxes to build roads, to build infrastructure, and to build schools. In the equivalent geographical area, New Mexico has almost 2 million people to build all of those miles of roads.

Now, this is the effect of this legislation: it removes the financing mechanism that States like New Mexico use—those Western, lightly populated areas—municipal bonds to fund things like schools and roads and infrastructure. Yet the committee that decided what category these assets would fall into said that they are no good and that they are not going to count in the liquidity requirement for institutions.

What that means is $3.7 trillion will evaporate out of that municipal bond market. That is $3.7 trillion that would help us build infrastructure and help us create better living for everybody in the West. Yet this committee, which never visited New Mexico, appears not to have looked at the quality of assets. Mrs. Maloney, adequately, says it is not a question of safety and soundness. Mr. Messer says that the default rate is one-thousandths of 1 percent. They obviously did not look at the quality of the products. They simply said they are not going to qualify.

What that means is that financial institutions will no longer have incentive nor space under liquidity requirements to hold municipal obligations such as bonds. This is detrimental to the way of life in the West.

I would like to congratulate again Mrs. Maloney and Mr. Messer for bringing H.R. 2209 to us today to help be a partial cure to the problems that people from other countries have levied on us. It seems common sense: it seems useful; it seems good for the taxpayer and good for the country. Let’s pass H.R. 2209.

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

Again, I want to thank Members on both sides of the aisle. I thank all the sponsors of not only this legislation, but also the ones that have had their names added to it.

I was just thinking as this was wrapping up about what we will see when we leave here and look in the newspaper tomorrow and see what sort of media coverage Washington will get as to what we did on our first day back.

There is always a hue and cry saying that Washington is broken, there is no bipartisanship, and they are not passing any legislation to create jobs and trying to get the economy going again. You hear about that in the media all the time. As a matter of fact, you actually hear it on the floor, with many Members coming down here saying
that this House has not passed a single jobs creation bill in so many days, weeks, months, and years, or what have you.

Well, let it be known today that we worked here in a bipartisan manner, first in the subcommittee, the full committee, and now here in the House. We have four pieces of legislation. I know that some of the legislation may have mind-numbing terminology and you may scratch your head when you are talking about the liquidity coverage ratio, sex trafficking, and all those sort of things. You might say: Well, what does that have to do with the job creation? What does that have to do with infrastructure creation? What does that have to do with getting a new roof on my local school or a bridge built in my town? What does that have to do with helping my neighbor actually get a job when he has been out of work for a period of time? What does that have to do with someone in my family who is in a job right now, but no opportunity for advancement and no pay raise for a long period of time? These bills on the floor today have everything to do with all those issues.

As we pass these job creation bills in a bipartisan manner, let the word go out that we are doing exactly what the American public asked Congress to do: to work together, get it done, get the infrastructure in this country growing again, get the economy going again, and create jobs again.

That is why it is important to say thank you again to both sides of the aisle, and I encourage a “yes” vote on this. I thank you again to both sides of the aisle, and I encourage a “yes” vote on all of these bills today.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2269.

The motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, two-thirds being affirmative, was agreed to, and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INTERNATIONAL MEGAN’S LAW TO PREVENT DEMAND FOR CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 515) 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.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

**H387**

**CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE**

**February 1, 2016**

**SENATE AMENDMENTS:**

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) Short Title—This Act may be cited as the “International Megan’s Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.
Sec. 3. Definitions.
Sec. 4. Angel Watch Center.
Sec. 5. Notification by the United States Marshall Service.
Sec. 6. International travel.
Sec. 7. Reciprocal notifications.
Sec. 8. Unique passport identifiers for covered sex offenders.
Sec. 9. Implementation plan.
Sec. 10. Technical assistance.
Sec. 11. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 12. Rule of construction.

**SECTION 2. FINDINGS.**

The text of the Senate amendments:

Congress finds the following:

(1) Megan Nicole Kanka, who was 7 years old, was abducted, sexually assaulted, and murdered in 1994, in the State of New Jersey by a violent predator living across the street from her home. Unbeknownst to Megan Kanka and her family, he had been convicted previously of a sex offense against a child.

(2) In 1996, Congress adopted Megan’s Law (Public Law 104–145) as a means to encourage States to protect children by identifying the whereabouts of sex offenders and providing the means to monitor their activities.

(3) In 2006, Congress passed the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–248) to protect children and the public at large by establishing a comprehensive national system for the registration and notification to the public and law enforcement officers of convicted sex offenders.

(4) Law enforcement reports indicate that known child-sex offenders are traveling internationally.

(5) The commercial sexual exploitation of minors in child sex trafficking and pornography is a global phenomenon. The International Labour Organization has estimated that 1,800,000 children worldwide are victims of child sex trafficking and pornography each year.

(6) Child sex tourism, where an individual travels to a foreign country and engages in sexual activity with a child in that country, is a form of child sex trafficking and, where commercial, child sex trafficking.

**SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) CENTER.—The term “Center” means the Angel Watch Center established pursuant to section 4(a).

(2) CONVICTED.—The term “convicted” has the meaning given the term in section 4(a) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16911).

(3) COVERED SEX OFFENDER.—Except as otherwise provided, the term “covered sex offender” means an individual who is a sex offender by reason of having been convicted of a sex offense against a minor.

(4) DESTINATION COUNTRY.—The term “destination country” means a destination or transit country.

(5) INTERPOL.—The term “INTERPOL” means the International Criminal Police Organization.

(6) JURISDICTION.—The term “jurisdiction” means—

(A) a State;
(B) the District of Columbia;
(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;
(D) Guam;
(E) American Samoa;
(F) the Northern Mariana Islands;
(G) the United States Virgin Islands; and
(H) to the extent provided in, and subject to the requirements of, section 127 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16927), a Federally recognized Indian tribal government.

(7) MINOR.—The term “minor” means an individual who has not attained the age of 18 years.

(8) NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY.—The term “national Sex Offender Registry” means the National Sex Offender Registry established by section 119 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16919).

(9) SEX OFFENDER.—The term “sex offender under SORNA” has the meaning given the term “sex offender” in section 111 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16911).

(10) SEX OFFENSE AGAINST A MINOR.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “sex offense against a minor” means a specified offense against a minor, as defined in section 111 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16911).

(B) OTHER OFFENSES.—The term “sex offense against a minor” includes a sex offense described in section 111(5)(A) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16911(5)(A)) that is a specified offense against a minor, as defined in paragraph (7) of such section, or an attempt or conspiracy to commit such an offense.

(11) SEX OFFENSE AGAINST A MINOR.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “sex offense against a minor” includes a sex offense described in section 111(5)(A) of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16911(5)(A)) that is a specified offense against a minor, as defined in paragraph (7) of such section, or an attempt or conspiracy to commit such an offense.

(12) Rule of construction.

**SECTION 4. ANGEL WATCH CENTER.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish within the Child Exploitation Investigations Unit of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement a Center, to be known as the “Angel Watch Center”, to carry out the activities specified in subsection (e).

(b) INCOMING NOTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Center may receive incoming notifications concerning individuals under SORNA who have committed offenses of a sexual nature.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—Upon receiving an incoming notification under paragraph (1), the Center shall—

(A) immediately share all information received relating to the individual with the Department of Justice; and

(B) share all relevant information relating to the individual with other Federal, State, and local agencies and entities, as appropriate.

(c) COLLABORATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall collaborate with the Attorney General to establish a process for the receipt, dissemination, and categorization of information relating to individuals and specific offenses provided herein.

(d) LEADERSHIP.—The Center shall be headed by an Assistant Secretary of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in collaboration with the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(e) MEMBERS.—The Center shall consist of the following:

(1) The Assistant Secretary of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
(2) The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
(3) The individuals who are designated as analysts in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
(A) Individuals who are designated as program managers in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Center shall, using all relevant databases, systems and sources of information, not later than 48 hours before the intended travel and, at the same time, provide the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Attorney General with the information described in subparagraph (A) and is not in a system reviewed pursuant to this subparagraph, and

(C) provide a list of individuals identified under subparagraph (B) to the United States Marshals Service’s National Sex Offender Targeting Center to determine compliance with title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.) for the list of individuals required to register under section 1407 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006.

(2) PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO CENTER.—

Twenty-four hours before the intended travel, or thereafter, not later than 72 hours after the intended travel, theAngel WatchCenter in collaboration with the United States Marshals Service’s National Sex Offender Targeting Center may be transmitted through such means as are determined appropriate by the Center, in a manner consistent with subsections (a) and (b), and to any sex offender described in subparagraph (1). (A) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall provide a written determination to the Department of State regarding the status of an individual as a covered sex offender (as defined in section 240 of Public Law 110-457) when appropriate.

(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The Center shall provide, to theAngel Watch Center, information pertaining to any sex offender described in subparagraph (1) if—

(i) the individual is identified by a review conducted under paragraph (1)(B) as having provided advanced notice of international travel; or

(ii) after completing the activities described in paragraph (1), theAngel Watch Center receives information pertaining to a sex offender under paragraph (2).

(4) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Attorney General, and the countries to which they are transmitted, respectively,

(5) PASSPORT APPLICATION REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall provide a written determination to the Department of State of the status of an individual under paragraph (4) if appropriate and necessary and appropriate by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The Center shall—

(i) establish a mechanism to receive complaints from individuals affected by erroneous notifications under this section;

(ii) ensure that any complaint is promptly reviewed; and

(iii) in the case of a complaint that involves a notification by another Federal Government entity, notify the individual of the contact information for the appropriate entity and forward the complaint to the appropriate entity for prompt review and response pursuant to this section.

(6) RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS.—The Center shall, as appropriate—

(i) provide the individual with notification in writing that the individual was erroneously subject to international notification;

(ii) take action to ensure that a notification or information is provided to the appropriate country not erroneously transmitted to a destination country in the future; and

(iii) submit an additional written notification to the individual explaining why a notification or information regarding the individual was erroneously transmitted to the destination country and describing the actions that the Center has taken or is taking under clause (ii).

(7) PUBLIC AWARENESS.—The Center shall make publicly available information on how an individual may submit a complaint under this section.

(8) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit an annual report to the congressional committees (as defined in section 9) that includes—

(i) the number of instances in which a notification or information was erroneously transmitted to the destination country of an individual under paragraph (3); and

(ii) the actions taken to prevent similar errors from occurring in the future.

(9) ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS.—The Center shall establish, in coordination with the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and INTERPOL, an annual review process to ensure that theAngel Watch Center and theAngel Watch program are consistent with the requirements of this Act.

(10) INFORMATION COLLECTED.—The Center shall make available to theAngel Watch Center information on travel by sex offenders in a timely manner.

(11) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "sex offender'' means—

(j) a covered sex offender; or

(k) an individual required to register under the sex offender registration program of any jurisdiction described in subsection (a) of theAngel Watch Center, theAngel Watch program, or theAngel Watch Registry, on the basis of an offense against a minor.

SEC. 5. NOTIFICATION BY THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE’S NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER TARGETING CENTER TO THE DESTINATION COUNTRY.

(A) IN GENERAL.—The United States Marshals Service’s National Sex Offender Targeting Center may provide advance notice to the destination country of an individual. (B) EXCEPTIONS.—The United States Marshals Service’s National Sex Offender Targeting Center shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, ensure the destination country is consistently notified in advance about sex offenders under SOURA identified through their inclusion in sex offender registries of jurisdictions or the National Sex Offender Registry.

(C) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—For purposes of carrying out this Act, the United States Marshals Service’s National Sex Offender Targeting Center shall—

(i) make the case management system or other system that provides access to a list of individuals who have provided advanced notice of international travel available to theAngel Watch Center;

(ii) provide theAngel Watch Center with—

(2) the Angel Watch Center a determination of the accuracy of any notification under subsection (f); and

(3) consult with the Department of State regarding theAngel Watch program authorized under this Act.

(4) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "sex offender'' means—

(1) a covered sex offender; or

(2) an individual required to register under the sex offender registration program of any jurisdiction described in subsection (a) of theAngel Watch Registry, on the basis of an offense against a minor.

(9) ANNUAL REVIEW PROCESS.—The Center shall establish, in coordination with the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and INTERPOL, an annual review process to ensure that theAngel Watch Center and theAngel Watch program are consistent with the requirements of this Act.

(10) INFORMATION COLLECTED.—The Center shall make available to theAngel Watch Center information on travel by sex offenders in a timely manner.

(11) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term "sex offender'' means—

(j) a covered sex offender; or

(k) an individual required to register under the sex offender registration program of any jurisdiction described in subsection (a) of theAngel Watch Registry, on the basis of an offense against a minor.
(3) any decision not to transmit a notification abroad, to the extent practicable;
(4) the number of transmissions made under paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a) and the countries to which they are transmitted;
(5) whether the information was transmitted to the destination country before scheduled commencement of sex offender travel; and
(6) whether the request deemed necessary and appropriate by the Attorney General.

(g) COMPLAINT REVIEW.—
(1) In GENERAL.—The United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center shall—
(A) establish a mechanism to receive complaints from individuals affected by erroneous notices or information under this section;
(B) ensure that any complaint is promptly reviewed; and
(C) in the case of a complaint that involves a notification sent by another Federal Government entity, notify the individual of the contact information for the appropriate entity and forward the complaint to the appropriate entity for prompt review and response pursuant to this section.

(2) RESPONSE TO COMPLAINTS.—The United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center shall—
(A) provide the individual with notification in writing that the individual was erroneously subjected to international notification;
(B) take a action to ensure that a notification or information regarding the individual is not erroneously transmitted to a destination country in future; and
(C) submit an additional written notification to the individual explaining why a notification or information regarding the individual was erroneously transmitted to the destination country and certifying the actions that the United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center has taken or is taking under subparagraph (B).

(3) PUBLIC AWARENESS.—The United States Marshals Service's National Sex Offender Targeting Center shall make publicly available information on how an individual may submit a complaint under this section.

(4) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—The Attorney General shall submit an annual report to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 9) that includes—
(A) the number of instances in which a notification or information was erroneously transmitted to a destination country of an individual under subsection (a); and
(B) the actions taken to prevent similar errors from occurring in the future.

(h) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘sex offender registration program’ means—
(1) a sex offender under SORNA; or
(2) a person required to register under the sex offender registration program of any jurisdiction or included in the National Sex Offender Registry.

SEC. 6. INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL.
(a) REQUIREMENT THAT SEX OFFENDERS PROVIDE TRAVEL-RELATED INFORMATION TO SEX OFFENDER REGISTRIES.—Section 114 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (42 U.S.C. 16914) is amended—
(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and
(B) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) Information relating to intended travel of the sex offender outside the United States, including any anticipated dates and places of departure, return, carrier and flight numbers for air travel, destination country and address or other contact information therein, means and purpose of travel, and any other travel-related information requested by the Attorney General.”;

and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) TIME AND MANNER.—A sex offender shall provide and update information required under subsection (a), including information relating to intended travel outside the United States required by subsection (b) in conformance with any time and manner requirements prescribed by the Attorney General.”;

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 2250 OF TITLE 18, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 2250 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—
(1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively;
(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL REPORTING VIOLATIONS.—Whoever—

(1) is required to register under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.);
(2) knowingly fails to provide information required by the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.) with respect to future intended travel to a foreign country; and
(3) engages or attempts to engage in the intended travel to a foreign country,

shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 18 months, or both.

(3) the term ‘passport’ means a passport book or passport card.

SEC. 7. RECIPROCAL NOTIFICATIONS.
It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security, should seek reciprocal international agreements or arrangements to further the purposes of this Act and the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (42 U.S.C. 16901 et seq.). Such agreements or arrangements may establish reciprocal mechanisms to receive and transmit notices concerning international travel by sex offenders, through the Angel Watch Center, the INTERPOL notification system, and any other mechanisms as may be appropriate, including notification by the United States to other countries relating to the travel of sex offenders from the United States, reciprocal notifications of sex offenders from the United States relating to the travel of sex offenders to the United States, and mechanisms to correct and, as applicable, remove from any other records, any inaccurate information transmitted through such notifications.

SEC. 8. UNIQUE PASSPORT IDENTIFIERS FOR COVERED SEX OFFENDERS.
(a) AMENDMENT.—The Passport Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–457), Title II of Public Law 110–457 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) UNIQUE PASSPORT IDENTIFIERS FOR COVERED SEX OFFENDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Immediately after receiving a written determination from the Angel Watch Center that an individual is a covered sex offender through the process developed for that purpose under section 9 of the International Megan’s Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders, the Secretary of State shall take appropriate action under subsection (b).

(2) AUTHORITY TO USE UNIQUE PASSPORT IDENTIFIERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2), the Secretary of State shall not issue a passport to a covered sex offender unless the passport contains a unique identifier, and may revoke a passport previously issued without such an identifier of a covered sex offender.

(2) TO REISSUE PASSPORTS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Secretary of State may reissue a passport that does not include a unique identifier if an individual described in subsection (c) reapplies for a passport and the Angel Watch Center provides a written determination, through the process developed for that purpose under section 9 of the International Megan’s Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders, to the Secretary of State that the individual is not required to register as a covered sex offender.

(c) DEFINED TERMS.—In this section—
(1) the term ‘covered sex offender’ means an individual who—

(A) is a sex offender, as defined in section 4(f) of the International Megan’s Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders; and

(B) is currently required to register under the sex offender registration program of any jurisdiction.

(2) the term ‘unique identifier’ means any visual designation affixed to a conspicuous location on the passport indicating that the individual is a covered sex offender.

(3) the term ‘passport’ means a passport book or passport card.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Attorney General, and their agencies, officers, employees, and agents, shall not be liable to any person for any action taken under this section.

SEC. 9. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.
(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General shall develop a process by which to implement section 4(e)(5) and the provisions of section 240 of Public Law 110–457, as added by section 8 of this Act.

(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General shall jointly submit a report to, and shall consult with, the appropriate congressional committees under section 9 of the International Megan’s Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders, pursuant to section 907 of this Act, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.
friends to pedophiles. The International Labour Organization has estimated that 1.8 million children are victims of commercial sexual exploitation around the world each year.

It is imperative that we take the lessons learned on how to protect our children from known child sex predators within our borders and expand those protections globally to prevent convicted U.S. sex offenders from harming children abroad. It is imperative that we teach other countries how to establish their own Megan’s Law and push other countries to warn us in the United States when their sex offenders are traveling here.

Specifically, H.R. 515 will authorize and empower the Angel Watch Center, operating under the auspices of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, to check flight manifests against sex offender registries and quickly warn destination countries when sex offenders are headed their way.

The Angel Watch Center is authorized to send actual information about child sex offender travel to destination countries in a timely fashion for those countries to assess the potential damage and dangers to their kids and to respond appropriately, whether it is to deny entry or visa, monitor travel, or limit travel.

To prevent offenders from thwarting International Megan’s Law notification procedures by country hopping to an alternative destination not previously designated, H.R. 515 includes provisions for the State Department to develop a passport identifier, or, as we put it in the bill, “any visual designation affixed to a conspicuous location on the passport indicating that the individual is a covered sex offender.” A passport, Mr. Speaker, so identified provides law enforcement and Customs an additional tool to protect children.

The passport identifier is only for those who have been found guilty of a sex crime involving minors or have been deemed dangerous enough to be listed on a public sex offender registry. When this information is no longer public knowledge in the United States—in other words, they are off the registry—the passport identifier, in like manner, will no longer be required.

It is worth noting that some States already require sex offenders to have their status listed on their driver’s licenses—Alabama, Florida, Delaware, and Louisiana, to name a few. Ironically, it has been reported that some registered sex offenders have used their passports as an ID in order to keep their status secret.
I would like to offer my profound appreciation, Mr. Speaker, to Majority Leader KEVIN MCCARTHY for his deep and abiding commitment to combating human trafficking in all of its ugly manifestations, for scheduling the House vote, 14 months ago on International Megan's Law and all the dozen or so anti-human trafficking measures sponsored by Members from both sides of the aisle.

That was historic and had never been done like that before. So I thank him for that help and for working closely with the Senate in order to help bring this bill to fruition.

His policy adviser, Emily Murry, was remarkable, as was and is Kelly Dixon. I would like to thank our distinguished chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Ed ROYCE, and Ranking Member ELOI ENGEL, for their strong support for this bill and for the assistance of Jessica Kelch, Doug Anderson, and Janice Kaguyutan.

Janice will remember. She traveled with one of my staffers years ago investigating this terrible issue, which is a global scourge.

Senator BOB CORKER, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee on the Senate side, made this bill a priority and carried it over the finish line in the Senate. Thank you, Senator. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that.

His professional staff, Caleb McCarry and Counsel Sarah Ramig, showed remarkable dedication and persistence through multiple interagency negotiations.

His chief of staff, Todd Womack, and legislative director, Rob Strayer, skillfully guided the bill through the process on the Senate side, and I can’t thank them enough.

I also want to thank my good friend BEN CARDIN—Ben and I serve and have served for decades on the Helsinki Commission—for his support and for his efforts.

I am grateful to Senator RICHARD SHELBY and Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI for their assistance and driving better Angel Watch Center collaboration with the U.S. Marshals Service’s Sex Offender Targeting Center.

USMS will be required to vet names sent out by the Angel Watch Center and share previously vetted names with the U.S. Marshals Service’s Sex Offender Targeting Center. USMS will be required to vet names sent out by the Angel Watch Center and share previously vetted names with the Center in order to maximize expertise, avoid duplication of efforts, and ensure accuracy of international notification.

I would note that Senator SHELBY also championed the passport provisions that will ensure sex offenders with crimes against children cannot end-run the system.

I would like to thank my professional staffer, Shannon Hines, who was extraordinarily smart and creative during this process.

Thanks to professional staffer Jen DECi as well as Senator MIKULSKI’s staffer, Jennifer Eskra, for their tireless work as well.

Senator JOHN CORNYN, majority leader, did not rest on his success earlier this year in navigating the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act through the Senate, but persisted until International Megan’s Law was complete over on the Senate side.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank my former chief of staff, Mary Noonan, who has been tenacious in guiding this bill past obstacle after obstacle, and Allison Hollabaugh, who worked energetically, effectively, and expertly with the agencies and other interested parties to solidify this legislation.

I also would like to thank my former top Foreign Affairs Committee staff member, Sheri Rickert, who spent countless hours over several years negotiating with disparate parties trying to achieve passage of the bill. Those efforts, Sheri, were not in vain.

I would like to thank the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for their strong endorsement of the International Megan’s Law and their unrelenting support for this bill.

I first introduced this bill in 2008, alongside Megan Kanka’s parents, Maureen and Richard Kanka. Maureen and Richard, Mr. Speaker, are heroic people. They have fought for decades to spare children and their families from horrific crimes that can and must be prevented.

While they still carry deep emotional and psychological scars, Maureen and Richard’s selflessness, love of others, and vision have protected countless children from harm.

Enactment of International Megan’s Law will expand meaningful child protection at home and around the world, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina, (Mr. PITTenger), a member of the Financial Services Committee, who has been very active in the fight against human trafficking.

Mr. PITTenger. Chairman SMITH, thank you so much for your leadership on behalf of these individuals.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ed ROYCE, for your strong leadership as well.

Mr. Speaker, right now more than 20 million people worldwide are caught up in modern-day slavery. We call it human trafficking.

This isn’t just a problem over there. In the city I represent—Charlotte—Maria was trapped when she answered an ad for an aspiring actress. Rosa was snatched from a local gas station while waiting for a ride.

My good friend, Antonia Childs, dreamed of owning a bakery before falling victim to human trafficking. Thankfully, Antonia was rescued and now leads a vital Charlotte organization rescuing women, including Maria and Rosa.

As a Nation, we must take responsibility for our part in this horrific, multi-billion-dollar illicit industry. As Members of Congress, we must take an active role in ending human trafficking worldwide.

That is why, on January 22, 2015, I became an original cosponsor in support of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons (ATIP) Act. That bill was past the 2/3 vote requirement in the Senate, but persisted until International Megan’s Law was complete over on the Senate side. I urge my colleagues to support the Senate amendment to H. R. 515.

This bill would establish an Angel Watch Center within ICE—Immigration and Customs Enforcement—and provide advance notice to foreign governments when a convicted child sex offender travels to their country.

This bill will hopefully prevent some of these horrific crimes from taking place.

But, Mr. Speaker, fighting modern slavery requires a much more comprehensive response. Beyond prevention, governments must do all they can to protect victims: robust identification efforts; policies and procedures that get victims out of harm’s way; comprehensive support services that include physical and mental health care; education opportunities; legal assistance; reintegration with family and community; and, of course, aggressive investigations and prosecutions to go after those responsible for such heinous crimes.

The reality is, the sad reality, is that no single government or single law will put an end to human trafficking. But every step we take strengthens our ability to prevent these crimes, protect victims, and punish those responsible.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Senate amendment to H. R. 515.

I reserve the balance of my time.
of Chairman Smith’s H.R. 515, the International Megan’s Law to Prevent Child Exploitation.

H.R. 515 ensures foreign countries are notified when an American sex offender who has previously abused children is traveling to that country. It encourages other countries to provide us with the same vital information when a sex offender is traveling to America.

It attacks the sickening practice of child sex tourism by requiring the United States to notify other countries when convicted pedophiles travel abroad.

It encourages President Obama to use bilateral agreements and assistance to establish reciprocal notification so that we will know when convicted child offenders are coming here.

International Megan’s Law takes valuable lessons we have learned about protecting our children here in the United States and expands those protections globally so all communities can join together to take the necessary steps to protect our children.

Please join me in taking this important step to end modern slavery today.

Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have no further spoken on our side. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Smith of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. Royce), the distinguished chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Royce. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 515, the International Megan’s Law, focused on preventing demand for child sex trafficking.

I really want to acknowledge the hard work by the Member from New Jersey (Mr. Smith), his perseverance here as the bill’s author, as he has tried on several occasions to get this through the Senate and to the President. This action today, this bill, when it passes the floor, will go to the President’s desk.

I think it is very important that we understand the magnitude of this problem, as he has tried to convey to us here, and how this is going to strengthen the hand of law enforcement.

We want law enforcement to consider this a new tool. It will combat the appalling industry of child sex tourism, in which adults travel overseas to exploit children in other countries.

My chief of staff, Amy Porter, has gone on several humanitarian missions to work with very young children in Cambodia and elsewhere in South Asia as well. As she shows you the photographs of these little girls exploited and traumatized by this predatory activity, it is hard to fathom that men from around the world, including America, including our country, engage in this predatory activity.

While the countries they travel to lack the resources needed to deal with this rising number of child predators, this legislation is going to help us offset that.

One of the most discouraging things that my chief of staff, Amy, found was that, in Cambodia, it was the local police chief who himself was involved in the practice.

Now, upon her return to again check on this, she found that they had put an end to that. He was no longer in this trade, in this type of business. It had been cleaned up some with pressure from the United States, but it is still ongoing. So this will help us fight back.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Collins of New York). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. Smith of New Jersey. I yield the gentleman I have.

Mr. Royce. At present, multiple U.S. Government agencies are working to combat human trafficking and child sex tourism, but there has been a troubling lack of coordination and information sharing and notifications to foreign countries that a potential sexual criminal is heading their way, and those notifications are very inconsistent.

This bill clarifies the responsibility, puts it on the Justice Department and the Department of Homeland Security. It better coordinates those efforts. And, importantly, by proactively helping other countries to identify those incoming child predators, we will encourage them to alert us when foreign convicted of sex offenses against children attempt to enter into the United States.

So I commend Chairman Smith for his work on this bipartisan legislation, and I encourage all Members to support its passage. It will be on the President’s desk here after our action this evening.

Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. Wagner).

Mrs. Wagner. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 515, the International Megan’s Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking.

I would like to thank, like so many have, Congressman Chris Smith for introducing this important legislation to protect innocent children from the evils of sexual predators in the United States and worldwide.

As a mother who raised three beautiful children, I can tell you that the constant concern for their safety and protection never goes away. When they were young, I worried if they were safe at the playground down the street, if they were safe at the shopping mall or movie theater.

Named after a young girl who was kidnapped, raped, and murdered at just 7 years old by her neighbor, Megan’s Law and public knowledge of predators in our communities have been critical tools in protecting our children and easing some of the many fears that parents feel every single day.

I cannot fathom the anger and anguish felt by Megan’s parents and all parents whose children fall prey to such sick predators. I would do anything to protect my children and all children from sexual predators, and I feel blessed that I and my colleagues are in position where we can make a difference.

We will be able to better identify and scrutinize sex offenders’ activity, ensuring that they do not engage in the ghastly practice of sex tourism either in our own neighborhood or any neighborhood around the world.

The U.S. must take a leading role as a global defender of children from sexual abuse. Often planning their trips around locations where the most vulnerable children can be found, sex offenders should not be allowed to use the anonymity provided by foreign travel to help hide their horrific crimes.

A 2010 Government Accountability Office report showed that in a single year, at least 4,500 registered sex offenders received U.S. passports to travel internationally. This is absolutely unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

During my time as a United States ambassador, I was exposed firsthand to the horrors of sexual abuse and human trafficking on the international level.

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

Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman from Missouri, an additional 1 minute.

Mrs. Wagner. Mr. Speaker, as elected Members of Congress, we must stand up for the powerless, and we must provide a voice for the voiceless. Today we are doing just that.

Passing the International Megan’s Law, which will provide advance notice of foreign travel by registered sex offenders, is critical. We owe it to the innocent angels like Megan to take these crimes out of the shadows and do everything we can to prevent future crime both in the United States and across the globe.

Today I will vote to pass the International Megan’s Law, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in providing protection for potential victims worldwide and greater peace of mind for those who love them.

Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Smith of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say this is a bipartisan bill. It will save children’s lives. It will prevent other crimes to victims like Megan Kanka from happening not just in the United States but around the world.

I think my good friend, Ann Wagner, said a moment ago that Megan is an angel. Her parents are guardian angels. They have taken a pain, an agony, and a trauma that is incomprehensible and have worked tirelessly to get Megan’s
Law enacted throughout the United States and in other countries. This will take it to the next level and will establish that true reciprocal reciprocity regimen, whereby we notice, they notice, everybody knows what is going on. On this tour, this hero, my friend Smith, goes out of this travel when a convicted pedophile hops on a plane with the idea of exploiting children.

This will have a very measurable impact and will protect children from this kind of abuse. In addition to the family's efforts, the U.S. Marshal's Service is required to notify the federal, state, and local law enforcement officials; the U.S. Marshal's Service is required to notify the international destination country if he or she is refused entry solely on the basis of a unique passport identifier. While the bill has some due process provisions, those apply only domestically. There is no recourse if a traveler is erroneously denied entry from the destination country.

Fourth, if the “unique passport identifier” is implemented in a way that makes it obvious to not only law enforcement officials but any member of the general public viewing the passport, this could lead to unintended consequences of persecution and harm to the traveler. This is especially true when the individual is the victim of terrorism to these restrictions.

Second, by treating all sexual offenders as one monolithic group ignores reality. While some pose a continued and real risk of reoffending and may be traveling to engage in sex tourism or other illicit acts, not all pose the same risk. Indeed, the failure of this provision to allow for individualized consideration of the facts and circumstances surrounding the traveler's criminal history, including how much time has elapsed since his last offense, underscores how this provision is overbroad. Details such as whether the traveler is a serial child rapist versus someone with a decades-old conviction from when he was 19-years-old and his girlfriend was 14, just missing the Romeo and Juliet exception by one year, are significant and would allow law enforcement to more appropriately prioritize their finite resources.

Third, if the traveler does not have any recourse with the foreign destination country if he or she is refused entry solely on the basis of this “unique passport identifier.” While the bill has some due process provisions, those apply only domestically. There is no recourse if a traveler is erroneously denied entry from the destination country.

The Secretary of State is required to notify the family of Megan Kanka. Being a father myself of a 2-year-old daughter, I can't imagine losing a little girl, especially in the heinous way that they did.

I remember the ugly incident very well. Hamilton, New Jersey, is only about 40 minutes up the road from where I live in Philadelphia, and I remember the ugly incident very well. The fact that here we are, so many years later, and the family continues to fight for other little girls and little boys is really remarkable and is a testament to them.

I also congratulate the gentlemen from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who I know has worked tirelessly on this bill for a long period of time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 515, International Megan’s Law. While I support the underlying goal of ensuring that American law enforcement agencies share information on potential child sex offenders with foreign law enforcement agencies, I am opposed to how one particular provision, added in the Senate amendment before us today, would work in practice.

Other existing provisions of the bill already contain the following information-sharing requirements with and among law enforcement agencies here in the United States and abroad:

U.S. sex offenders are required to provide international travel-related information to the sex offender registries;

the Department of Homeland Security is required to create the Angel Watch Center to receive information on individuals seeking to enter the United States who have committed offenses of a sexual nature as well as registered sex offenders seeking to travel outside the United States. In order to share all relevant information with federal, state, and local law enforcement officials;

the U.S. Marshal’s Service is required to notify law enforcement agencies of sex offenders seeking to leave the United States who have not transmitted their travel information to sex offender registries;

the U.S. Marshal’s Service is required to notify the international destination country of a sex offender’s upcoming travel; and

the Secretary of State should seek reciprocal international agreements or arrangements to further these goals.

If our goal is to ensure that customs and border as well as law enforcement officials are notified so that they may track and investigate those sex offenders who may be engaging in sex tourism or pose a threat of absconding, these provisions have addressed those concerns.

As a result, I am skeptical of what more we stand to gain from the amendment’s provision authorizing the Secretary of State to use a “unique passport identifier for covered sex offenders” that is defined as “any visual designation affixed to a conspicuous location on the passport indicating the individual is a covered sex offender.” At best, if this vague language mandates some sort of code or symbol embedded in the passport that is only discernible by law enforcement at the border indicating that the traveler is a sex offender, it is redundant given the other information-sharing mandated by the bill’s other provisions. However, if this is interpreted to mean something akin to the words “sex offender” stamped on the identification page of the passport, this raises serious problems and will lead to unintended consequences.

First, it is simply bad policy to single out one category of offenders for treatment. We do not subject those who murder, who defraud the government or our fellow citizens of millions and billions, or who commit acts of terrorism to these restrictions.

Second, by treating all sexual offenders as one monolithic group ignores reality. While some pose a continued and real risk of reoffending and may be traveling to engage in sex tourism or other illicit acts, not all pose the same risk. Indeed, the failure of this provision to allow for the individualized consideration of the facts and circumstances surrounding the traveler’s criminal history, including how much time has elapsed since his last offense, underscores how this provision is overbroad. Details such as whether the traveler is a serial child rapist versus someone with a decades-old conviction from when he was 19-years-old and his girlfriend was 14, just missing the Romeo and Juliet exception by one year, are significant and would allow law enforcement to more appropriately prioritize their finite resources.

Third, if the traveler does not have any recourse with the foreign destination country if he or she is refused entry solely on the basis of this “unique passport identifier.” While the bill has some due process provisions, those apply only domestically. There is no recourse if a traveler is erroneously denied entry from the destination country.

Fourth, if the “unique passport identifier” is implemented in a way that makes it obvious to not only law enforcement officials but any member of the general public viewing the passport, this could lead to unintended consequences of persecution and harm to the traveler. This is especially true when the individual is the victim of terrorism to these restrictions.

This legislation is important because sex trafficking of children is a displacable act that we detest and has been an on-going concern for the United States.

In addition to protecting our children from national threats, we must also consider the potential threat from international actors, especially during times of increased tourism, like for example the Super Bowl, FIFA World Cup, World Olympics and other major events around the world.

This legislation by my friend Representative SMITH aims to protect our children from exploitation, specifically sex trafficking in tourism, by providing advance notice of intended travel by registered child-sex offenders outside of the United States to the government of the destination country.

This legislation is important because it requests that foreign governments notify the United States when a known child-sex offender is seeking to enter the United States.

According to reports, the Rio de Janeiro civil police identified eight hotels and restaurants involved in a child sexual exploitation network in two city areas.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as you know, is where the World Olympics will be hosted this summer.

According to the Huffington Post, major sporting event usually lead to a spike in the demand for sexual predatory activities.

Unfortunately, these predatory activities include child sex trafficking.

Here at home, during the 2014 Super Bowl week, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, along with 50 law enforcement agencies, recovered 16 teenagers during an enforcement action on child sex trafficking.

Additionally, more than 45 pimps were arrested, some of whom claimed to travel to the Super Bowl location specifically for the purpose of prostituting women and children at the sporting event.

According to Judy Kluger, Director of Sanctuary for Families, and former judge for New York City Criminal Court of New York County, New York, “the Super Bowl could never not be breeding grounds for sexual exploitation.”

If a location experiences an exponential increase in large numbers of men travelling for entertainment, it will proportionally see an increase in those who purchase sex.

As you all know, I am committed to ensuring the protection of children, always championing the protection of children.

As co-chair of the Children’s Caucus, I commend the work of all my colleagues here in Congress, dedicated to protecting children here in the U.S. and across the globe.
This is why I support this legislation and I commend Representative Smith for championing legislative measures dedicated to the safety and protection of our children worldwide.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Smith) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 515.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRAFFICKING PREVENTION IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONTRACTING ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 400) to require the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to submit reports on definitions of placement and recruitment fees for purposes of enabling compliance with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 400

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

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This bill may be referred to as the “Trafficking Prevention in Foreign Affairs Contracting Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development are responsible for providing various services in foreign countries such as construction, security, and facilities maintenance.

(2) In certain cases, such as where the employment of local labor is impractical or poses security risks, Department of State and USAID contractors sometimes employ foreign workers who are citizens neither of the United States nor of the host country and are recruited from developing countries where low wages and recruitment methods often make them vulnerable to a variety of trafficking-related abuses.

(3) A January 2011 report of the Inspector General for the Department of State found no evidence of direct coercion by contractors, found that a significant majority of their foreign workers in certain Middle East countries reported paying substantial fees to recruiters that, according to the Inspector General, “effectively resulted in debt bondage at their destinations”. Approximately one-half of the workers were charged recruitment fees equaling more than six months’ salary. More than a quarter of the workers reported fees greater than one year’s salary and, in some of those cases, fees that could not be paid off in two years, the standard length of a contract.

(4) A November 2014 report of the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO-15-102) found that the Department of State, USAID, and the Defense Department need to strengthen their oversight of contractors’ use of foreign workers in high-risk environments in order to better protect against trafficking in persons.

(5) The GAO report recommended that those agencies should develop more precise definitions of recruitment fees, and that they should better ensure that contracting officers are following in person their agents to charge workers under such contracts.

(6) Of the three agencies addressed in the GAO report, only the Department of Defense expressly concurred with GAO’s definitional recommendation and committed to defining recruitment fee in its acquisition regulations as necessary.

(7) In formal comments to GAO, the Department of State stated that it forbids the charging of any recruitment fees by contractors, and both the Department of State and USAID noted a proposed Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) rule that prohibits charging any recruitment fees to employees.

(8) However, according to GAO, neither the Department of State nor USAID specifically defined prohibited recruitment fee: “Contracting officers and agency officials with monitoring responsibilities currently rely on policy and guidance regarding recruitment fees that are ambiguous. Without an explicit definition of the components of recruitment fees, prohibited fees may be renamed and passed on to foreign workers, increasing the risk of debt bondage and other conditions that contribute to trafficking.”.

(9) GAO found that, although Department of State and USAID requirements are applicable to the actions of grantees, subcontractors, labor recruiters, brokers, or other agents, as specified in section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104(g)).

(10) Of the organizations US government agencies and the United States Agency for International Development to submit reports on definitional practices, especially in areas where the risk of trafficking in persons is high.

(11) An explanation of how the definition described in paragraph (1) will be incorporated into grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and culpable practices, so as to apply to the actions of grantees, subgrantees, contractors, subcontractors, labor recruiters, brokers, or other agents, as specified in section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104(g)).

(12) A description of actions taken during the 180-day period preceding the date of submission of the report and planned to be taken during the one-year period following the date of the report to better ensure that officials responsible for grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements and contracting practices include the prevention of trafficking survivors themselves meet regulatory requirements.

(13) A description of actions taken during the 180-day period preceding the date of submission of the report and planned to be taken during the one-year period following the date of the report to better ensure that officials responsible for grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements and contracting practices include the prevention of trafficking survivors themselves meet regulatory requirements.

SEC. 3. REPORTS ON DEFINITION OF PLACEMENT AND RECRUITMENT FEES AND ENHANCEMENT OF CONTRACT MONITORING TO PREVENT TRAFFICKING ACT.

(1) A proposed definition of placement and recruitment fees for purposes of complying with section 106(g)(iv)(IV) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104(g)(iv)(IV)) that describes what fee components and amounts are prohibited or are permissible for contractors or their agents to charge workers under such section.

(2) An explanation of how the definition described in paragraph (1) will be incorporated into grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and culpable practices, so as to apply to the actions of grantees, subgrantees, contractors, subcontractors, labor recruiters, brokers, or other agents, as specified in section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7104(g)).

We must be vigilant in our efforts to combat human trafficking. As many of our colleagues are aware, we have just observed National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, shining a spotlight on what is now tens of millions of victims every year of what is modern-day slavery. One of the goals here was increasing the awareness of these crimes against human dignity.

The scourge of human trafficking not only threatens the safety and protection of our children worldwide. Although the vulnerability may be greatest in the developing world, these crimes also occur here in our own communities.

I am very proud of the work being done in southern California by members of the Human Trafficking Congressional Advisory Committee where advocates, law enforcement, service providers, faith-based groups, and trafficking survivors themselves meet regularly to converse, coordinate, and plan how to combat human trafficking.

Out of that working group come a lot of good ideas. I want to acknowledge Sara Catalan who helps me in leading that task force.

This bill is intended to close a gap that exists in protection. The United States cannot be too careful in ensuring that our overseas employment
practices do not inadvertently support debt bondage, because that debt bondage is one of the tools of human traffickers.

At some overseas posts, the State Department and USAID rely on contractors for construction, security, maintenance, and other services. And these contractors sometimes employ foreign workers recruited from far away, far-away developing countries where they are vulnerable to abuses. In particular, the middlemen those contractors then charge recruitment fees to prospective employees—in other words, payments for the right to work.

Current law prohibits U.S. contractors from charging foreign workers unreasonable recruitment fees, and the State Department claims to prohibit any recruitment fees at all. However, neither State nor USAID have defined what constitutes a “recruitment fee,” and this ambiguity allows for a loophole that has been exploited. Recruiters simply rename these fees and continue charging them.

This is a serious problem. We had a report by the State Department Inspector General in 2011. He found that a majority of the Department’s foreign contract workers in certain Middle East countries were paying substantial fees to recruiters—and this is what caught our attention—sometimes more than a year’s salary resulting in, in the words of former General—In his words—“effective debt bondage.”

A worker from the Philippines performing janitorial services for our Embassy in Saudi Arabia should not be at risk of shakedowns from unscrupulous or violent operators.

To ensure that our overseas contracting does not feed such problems, this bill requires State and USAID to define what prohibited “recruitment fees” are and to report to Congress on their efforts to improve and contract monitoring, to protect against human trafficking. A prohibition is only forceful if people understand what is prohibited. Clarifying these matters will give our contractors the guidance they need to ensure that our laws and policies are followed by those they use to recruit foreign workers.

I again want to thank Mr. ENGEL and all of our cosponsors for their support of this strongly bipartisan bill which deserves our unanimous support.

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

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman ROYCE and also Ranking Member ENGEL for their leadership and for their hard work on this bill.

It seems that every day we see another report about the way modern slavery touches our lives. Fish caught by an enslaved sailor in Southeast Asia ends up in our grocery stores. Rare metals that are needed to power our smartphones are mined through forced labor in Central Africa. Oranges and tomatoes grown right here in the United States are picked by migrants who end up trapped and isolated.

Human trafficking is a crime that affects every corner of the Earth. It undermines stability, fuels criminal networks, and robs tens of millions of people of their basic freedom. It touches all of our lives.

The United States Government has long been a leader in the fight against trafficking. Republican and Democratic administrations alike have focused hard on the best way to prevent modern slavery, protect its victims, and prosecute those responsible. The State Department’s Annual Trafficking in Persons Report is the global gold standard for assessing how well governments are doing to combat this problem.

As we learn more and more about this crime, how it has worked its way into the global supply chain and labor market, we find new ways of disrupting trafficking networks. Part of American leadership on this issue must be to make sure, first and foremost, that we are not making this problem worse.

Our foreign affairs agencies employ thousands of foreign contract workers overseas. These men and women work in construction, food service, and security projects abroad.

In 2011, while interviewing some of these workers found that 77 percent of them had paid recruiting fees to the company arranging the work. What that means is before workers are able to get these jobs, they need to pay a recruiter a hefty sum. Sometimes these fees are 6 months’ or even a year’s wages. These fees can include the high costs of housing or transportation to a worksite in a foreign country. So often, a worker arrives at a new job saddled with debt and is forced to work until he or she can pay the so-called recruiter back.

This sort of treatment is unacceptable under any circumstances. The fact that this is happening to individuals working for the United States Government is absolutely intolerable.

We cannot be the world’s leader in the fight against modern slavery if tax-payer dollars are flowing into the hands of traffickers.

The Obama administration saw this problem and took steps to deal with it. An executive order forbids any U.S. Government contractors from charging unreasonable recruitment fees. But so far the State Department and USAID have been unable to enforce this requirement. The reason why—neither agency has defined recruitment fees, so their guidelines for fair treatment of workers by contractors are unenforceable.

Mr. Speaker, this is simply not acceptable. This bill requires that the State Department and USAID adopt a legally binding definition of recruitment fees. In addition, the agencies must improve how they monitor contractors to detect and prevent human trafficking.

This legislation represents a commonsense step to resolve this problem and to make sure we have a clean House as we lead global antitrafficking efforts. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. SMITH, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, and he is the author of the original Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend and colleague, the distinguished chairman, Ed ROYCE, for his persistence and creativity in finding new ways to hold the administration accountable for preventing human trafficking, especially in government contracting, as is required by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 and the National Defense Authorization Act of 2013.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that U.S. Government procurement should be the quintessential example of how good laws and good transparency make good vendor. The TVPA ensures that contracts are lost if there is complicity in trafficking and that responsible parties are prosecuted if they, in like manner, are complicit in human trafficking.

H.R. 400 targets a key piece of the law for practical implementation and brings our government one step closer to ensuring that U.S. tax dollars are allocated in a way that is going to continue to bring no more by human trafficking by their contractors and subcontractors.

Again, this is a very important bill. I want to thank the distinguished chairman for his leadership in this effort.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I would simply congratulate the gentleman who does a wonderful job chairing our Foreign Affairs Committee. As I said on a radio show in Philadelphia last week, I really wish those who say that there is no bipartisan support in Washington, D.C., could see the way the ranking member, Mr. ENGEL, and our chairman, Mr. ROYCE, conduct our foreign affairs business. I think they would have a different view.

I am proud to support this piece of legislation, and I urge all my colleagues to do so.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I want to thank Mr. BRENDAN BOYLE of Pennsylvania for his work on this.

On the heels of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, I think it is important that we as an institution take this
opportunity to ensure that our own overseas contracting does not indirectly support debt bondage, and that is what this legislation ensures. Our practices need to reflect our Nation’s fundamental commitments to freedom and human dignity, and, most importantly, we need to see to an example for the rest of the world. I think by passing this legislation we will do so.

I again want to thank my coauthor, Mr. ENGEL, and all of our bipartisan co-sponsors for their support of this bill. It really deserves our unanimous support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 400, the Trafficking Prevention in Foreign Affairs Contracting Act. I support this legislation because it enforces the implementation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

H.R. 400 requires the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to submit for the guidance of the Department of State and USAID.

Indeed, the office of the Inspector General reported that a significant majority of the Department of State’s foreign workers in certain Middle Eastern countries paid substantial fees to recruiters. According to the Inspector General, “approximately one-half of the workers were charged recruitment fees equaling more than six months’ salary.”

Moreover, “more than a quarter of the workers reported fees greater than one year’s salary and... fees that could not be paid off in two years.”

The United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that USAID, the Department of State (DOS), and the Defense Department (DOD) should enhance and strengthen their oversight of contractors in order to better protect against trafficking in persons.

The agencies should develop more precise definitions of recruitment fees, and have stronger implementation strategies towards contracting officials in areas where the risk of trafficking in persons is high.

Indeed, out of the three agencies previously addressed, only the DOD committed to definitions of recruitment fees and concurred with the United States GAO’s definition recommendations.

A proposed Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) rule that prohibits charging any recruitment fees to employees was noted by both the Department of State and USAID.

However, both the Department of State and USAID lacked an explicit definition for what constitutes a prohibited recruitment fee.

Without an explicit definition of the components of recruitment fees, the risk of debt bondages increase, prohibited fees are more likely to be renamed and passed, and other conditions that contribute to trafficking are more likely to occur.

I support this legislation because no later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, both the Secretary of State and the Administrator of USAID shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes a proposed definition of placement and recruitment fees for purposes of compliance with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

Both entities will also include a description of what fee components and amounts are prohibited or are permissible for contractors or their agents to charge workers.

An explanation of how the definition provided will be incorporated into grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, and contracting practices will be required.

Both the 180-day period preceding the date of submission and the one year following the date of submission require a report of the description of action.

Indeed, acknowledging the actions executed during the time periods provided ensure that officials responsible for grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements and contracting practices include the prevention of trafficking in persons in plans and processes.

These include agreements and contracting practices that relate to areas of the world in which the risk of trafficking in persons is high.

In a 2011 CNN report, we learned about a federal agency filing a large human trafficking lawsuit.

The article discussed Thai workers who made their way to the nonprofit agency. Some were approached by a labor contractor who offered what is said to be a lucrative job on a farm in the United States, but the workers unfortunately found themselves owing thousands of dollars in recruiting fees instead.

I support this legislation because it facilitates, establishes and monitors a strong system for submitting reports pertaining to explicit definitions of placement and recruitment fees, so foreign workers recruited from developing countries are not vulnerable to a variety of trafficking-related abuses.

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. 400, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTRIFY AFRICA ACT OF 2015

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2152) to establish a comprehensive, integrated, multiyear strategy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to implement national power strategies and develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support power reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2152
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 “Electrify Africa Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.
The purpose of this Act is to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to affordable and reliable electricity in Africa to unlock the potential for inclusive economic growth, job creation, food security, improved health, education, and environmental outcomes, and poverty reduction.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.
It is the policy of the United States to partner, consult, and coordinate with the governments of sub-Saharan African countries, international financial institutions, African regional economic communities, cooperatives, and the private sector, in a concerted effort to:

(1) promote first-time access to power and power services for at least 50,000,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020 in both urban and rural areas;

(2) encourage the installation of at least 20,000 additional megawatts of electrical power in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020 using a broad mix of energy options to help reduce poverty, promote sustainable development, and drive inclusive economic growth and create jobs;

(3) promote non-discriminatory reliable, affordable, and sustainable power in urban areas (including small urban areas) to promote economic growth and create jobs;

(4) promote policies to facilitate public-private partnerships to provide non-discriminatory reliable, sustainable, and affordable electricity service to rural and underserved populations;

(5) encourage the necessary in-country reforms, including facilitating public-private partnerships specifically to support electricity access projects to make such expansion of power access possible;

(6) promote reforms of power production, delivery, and pricing policies to support long-term, market-based power generation and distribution;

(7) promote policies to displace kerosene lighting with other technologies;

(8) promote an all-of-the-above energy development strategy for sub-Saharan Africa that includes the use of oil, natural gas, coal, hydroelectric, wind, solar, and geothermal power, and other sources of energy; and

(9) promote and increase the use of private financing and seek ways to remove barriers to private financing and assistance for projects, including through charitable organizations.

SEC. 4. DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE, MULTIYEAR STRATEGY.

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall establish a comprehensive, integrated, multiyear strategy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to implement national power strategies and develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support power reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes.

(2) FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS.—The President shall ensure that the strategy required under paragraph (1) maintains sufficient flexibility for and remains responsive to concerns and interests of affected local communities and technological innovation in the power sector.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that
H397

February 1, 2016

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

contains the strategy required under subsection (a) and includes a discussion of the following elements:

(1) The objectives of the strategy and the criteria for determining the success of the strategy;

(2) A general description of efforts in sub-Saharan Africa to:

(A) increase power production;

(B) strengthen electrical transmission and distribution infrastructure;

(C) promote regulatory reform and transparent and accountable governance and oversight;

(D) improve the reliability of power;

(E) maximize the cost-effectiveness of power; and

(F) manage the financial sustainability of the power sector;

and (G) improve non-discriminatory access to power and strengthen consultation with affected communities.

(3) A description of plans to support efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to increase access to power in urban and rural areas, including a description of plans designed to address commercial, industrial, and residential needs.

(4) A description of plans to support efforts to reduce waste and corruption, ensure local community consultation, and improve existing power generation through the use of a broad mix of energy, including fossil fuel and renewable energy, distributed generation models, energy efficiency, and other technologies, as appropriate.

(5) An analysis of existing mechanisms for ensuring, and recommendations to promote:

(A) commercial cost recovery;

(B) commercialization of electric service through distribution service providers, including cooperatives, to consumers;

(C) developing plans for a reliable, robust, and expedient institutional framework, including equipment used to provide energy access, including solar lanterns, solar home systems, and mini and micro grids;

(D) plans to protect the intellectual property of companies designing and manufacturing products that can be used to provide energy access in sub-Saharan Africa.

(6) A description of efforts to develop standardized power generation, transmission, and distribution in sub-Saharan Africa, including a description of how the government of each country receiving assistance pursuant to the strategy—

(A) plans to lower or eliminate import tariffs or other taxes for energy and other power generation, transmission, and distribution equipment and services;

(B) a description of how bolstering distribution and transmission services, both on- and off-grid, in sub-Saharan Africa, including off-grid lighting and power, that includes:

(A) an analysis of the state of distributed renewable energy in sub-Saharan Africa;

(B) a description of market barriers to the deployment of additional renewable energy technologies both on- and off-grid in sub-Saharan Africa;

(C) an analysis of the efficacy of efforts by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the United States Agency for International Development to facilitate the financing of the importation, distribution, sale, leasing, or marketing of distributed renewable energy technologies; and

(D) a description of how bolstering distributed renewable energy can enhance the overall effort to increase power access in sub-Saharan Africa.

(7) A description of plans to ensure the viability and independent utility regulator;

(C) incurring losses due to unforeseen utilities be come or remain creditworthy;

(D) regulations that permit the participation of independent power producers and private-public partnerships;

(E) policies that encourage private sector and cooperative investment in power generation;

(F) policies that ensure compensation for power provided to the electrical grid by on-site producers;

(G) policies to unbundle power services;

(H) regulations to eliminate conflicts of interest in the utility sector;

(I) efforts to develop standardized power purchase agreements and other contracts to streamline power projects;

(J) efforts to negotiate and monitor compliance with power purchase agreements and other contracts entered into with the private sector;

(K) policies that promote local community consultation with respect to the development of power generation and transmission projects; and

(L) a description of plans to ensure meaningful local consultation, as appropriate, in the planning, long-term maintenance, and management of investments designed to increase access to power in sub-Saharan Africa;

(8) A description of the mechanisms to be established for—

(A) selection of partner countries for focused engagement on the power sector;

(B) monitoring increased access to, and reliability and affordability of, power in sub-Saharan Africa;

(C) maximizing the financial sustainability of power generation, transmission, and distribution in sub-Saharan Africa;

(D) establishing metrics to demonstrate progress on meeting goals relating to access to power, power generation, and distribution in sub-Saharan Africa; and

(E) terminating unsuccessful programs.

(9) A description of how the President intends to promote trade in electrical equipment with countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including a description of how the government of each country receiving assistance pursuant to the strategy—

(A) plans to lower or eliminate import tariffs or other taxes for energy and other power generation, transmission, and distribution equipment and services;

(B) a description of market barriers to the deployment of additional renewable energy technologies both on- and off-grid in sub-Saharan Africa;

(C) an analysis of the efficacy of efforts by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the United States Agency for International Development to facilitate the financing of the importation, distribution, sale, leasing, or marketing of distributed renewable energy technologies; and

(D) a description of how bolstering distributed renewable energy can enhance the overall effort to increase power access in sub-Saharan Africa.

(10) A description of how the President intends to encourage the growth of distributed renewable energy markets in sub-Saharan Africa, including off-grid lighting and power, that includes:

(A) an analysis of the state of distributed renewable energy in sub-Saharan Africa;

(B) a description of market barriers to the deployment of additional renewable energy technologies both on- and off-grid in sub-Saharan Africa;

(C) an analysis of the efficacy of efforts by the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the United States Agency for International Development to facilitate the financing of the importation, distribution, sale, leasing, or marketing of distributed renewable energy technologies; and

(D) a description of how bolstering distributed renewable energy can enhance the overall effort to increase power access in sub-Saharan Africa.

(11) A description of plans to ensure that small and medium enterprises based in sub-Saharan Africa are able to financially benefit from energy development and energy access opportunities associated with this Act.

(12) A description of how United States investments to increase access to energy in sub-Saharan Africa may reduce the need for foreign aid and development assistance in the future.

(13) A description of policies or regulations, both domestically and internationally, that create barriers to private financing of the projects undertaken in this Act.

(14) A description of the specific national security benefits to the United States that will be derived from increased energy access in sub-Saharan Africa.

(15) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, as appropriate, establish an Interagency Working Group to coordinate the activities of relevant United States Government department and agencies involved in implementing the strategy required under this section.

(2) FUNCTIONS.—The Interagency Working Group may—

(A) seek to coordinate the activities of the United States Government departments and agencies involved in implementing the strategy required under this section;

(B) ensure efficient and effective coordination between participating departments and agencies; and

(C) facilitate information sharing, and coordinate partnerships between the United States Government, the private sector, and developing partners to achieve the goals of the strategy.

SEC. 5. PRIORITY EFFORTS AND ASSISTANCE FOR POWER PROJECTS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA BY KEY UNITED STATES INSTITUTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In pursuing the policy goals described in section 3, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Director of the Trade and Development Agency, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Chief Executive Officer and Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation should, as appropriate, prioritize and expedite institutional efforts and assistance to facilitate the involvement of such institutions in power projects and markets, both on- and off-grid, in sub-Saharan Africa and partner with other investors and local institutions in sub-Saharan Africa, including private sector actors, to specifically increase access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable power in sub-Saharan Africa, including through—

(1) maximizing the number of people with new access to power;

(2) improving and expanding the generation, transmission and distribution of power;

(3) providing reliable power to people and businesses in urban and rural communities;

(4) addressing the energy needs of marginalized people living in areas where there is little or no access to a power grid and that have already dramatically increased coverage in rural areas;

(5) reducing transmission and distribution losses and improving end-use efficiency and demand-side management;

(6) reducing energy-related impediments to business productivity and investment; and

(7) building the capacity of institutions in sub-Saharan Africa to monitor and appropriately and transparently regulate the power sector and encourage private investment in power production and distribution.

(b) EFFECTIVENESS MEASUREMENT.—In prioritizing and expediting institutional efforts and assistance pursuant to this section, as appropriate, such institutions shall use clear, countable, and measurable targets to measure the effectiveness of such guarantees and assistance in achieving the goals described in section 3.

(c) PROMOTION OF USE OF PRIVATE FINANCING AND ASSISTANCE.—In carrying out policies under this section, such institutions shall promote the use of private financing and assistance and seek ways to remove barriers to private financing for projects and programs under this Act, including through charitable organizations.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize modifying or limiting the portfolio of institutions covered by subsection (a) in other developing regions.

SEC. 6. LEVERAGING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.

In implementing the strategy described in section 3, the President may, as appropriate, establish an Interagency Working Group to coordinate the activities of relevant United States Government departments and agencies involved in implementing the strategy required under this section.

(1) commit to significantly increase efforts to promote investment in well-designed and effective projects in sub-Saharan Africa that increase energy access, in partnership with the private sector
and consistent with the host countries’ absorptive capacity;
(2) address energy needs of individuals and communities where access to an electricity grid is impractical or cost-prohibitive;
(3) enhance coordination with the private sector in sub-Saharan Africa to increase access to electricity;
(4) provide technical assistance to the regulatory authorities of sub-Saharan African governments to remove unnecessary barriers to investment in otherwise commercially viable projects;
(5) utilize clear, accountable, and metric-based targets to measure the effectiveness of such projects.

SEC. 7. PROGRESS REPORT.
(a) In general.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on progress made toward achieving the strategy described in section 4 that includes the following:
(1) A report on United States programs supporting our Mekong and Mackay initiatives or policies that were aimed at increasing energy access in sub-Saharan Africa, including a description of the number, type, and status of regulatory, and legislative changes initiated or implemented as a result of programs funded or supported by the United States in sub-Saharan Africa to support increased power generation and access after the date of the enactment of this Act.
(2) A description of power projects receiving United States Government support and how such projects, including off-grid efforts, are intended to achieve the strategy described in section 4.
(3) For each project described in paragraph (2),
(A) a description of how the project fits into, or encourages modifications of, the national energy plan of the country in which the project will be carried out, including encouraging regulatory reform in that country;
(B) an estimate of the total cost of the project to the consumer, the country in which the project will be carried out, and other investors;
(C) the amount of financing provided or guaranteed by the United States Government for the project;
(D) an estimate of United States Government resources for the project, itemized from private sources, including from the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of the Treasury, and other appropriate United States Government departments and agencies;
(E) estimate of the number and regional locations of individuals, communities, businesses, schools, and health facilities that have gained power connections as a result of the project, with a description of how the reliability, affordability, and sustainability of power has been improved as of the date of the report;
(F) an assessment of the increase in the number of people and businesses with access to power, and in the operating electrical power capacity in megawatts as a result of the project, between the date of the enactment of this Act and the date of the report;
(G) a description of efforts to gain meaningful local consultation for projects associated with this Act and any significant estimated noneconomic effects of the efforts carried out pursuant to this Act; and
(H) a description of the participation by small and medium enterprises based in sub-Saharan Africa on projects associated with this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

Mr. ROYCE. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to start by thanking this bill’s Senate cosponsors. The Senate sponsors of the original measure are BOB CORKER, chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, and the ranking member, Mr. CARDIN, as well as two other Senators, MARCO RUBIO and CHRIS COONS. I thank them for their good work to ensure this bill’s Senate passage. We had our House version passed into the Senate.

I also want to thank Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, as well as Chairman CHRIS SMITH, and Ranking Member KAREN BASS of the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee for working with me to develop the concept for this legislation over the last several years.

Last Congress, the House passed a similar version of the measure we consider today. With today’s action, this bill will head to the President’s desk for signature.

The Electrify Africa Act seeks to address the massive electricity shortage in Africa. It is a direct response to the fact that today 600 million people living in sub-Saharan Africa—that is 70 percent of the population—do not have access to reliable electricity. The Electrify Africa Act offers a market-based response to this problem, and it will bring about the development of affordable, reliable energy in Africa.

Why do we want to help increase energy access to the continent? Well, to create jobs and to improve lives in both Africa and America. It is a direct response to the lack of affordable, reliable energy in Africa.

Why do we want to help increase energy access to the continent? Well, to create jobs and to improve lives in both Africa and America. It is a direct response to the lack of affordable, reliable energy in Africa.

Why do we want to help increase energy access to the continent? Well, to create jobs and to improve lives in both Africa and America. It is a direct response to the lack of affordable, reliable energy in Africa.

As the Foreign Affairs Committee investigated how to make better use of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which was landmark legislation passed over a decade ago to expand trade with Africa, we learned that the lack of affordable, reliable energy made the production of goods for trade and export nearly impossible. Even where other conditions supported manufacturing, the cost of running a plant on a diesel generator is prohibited.

However, the U.S. is not alone in its interest in enhancing trade with Africa. We have competition. Just last month, the People’s Republic of China pledged $60 billion in financial support to the continent. If the United States wants to tap into this potential consumer base, we need to be aggressively building partnerships on the continent, which is what this bill seeks to do.

This bill will also have a tangible impact on people’s lives. As former chairman of the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee, I have seen firsthand how important investments in improving access to health care and education in Africa are undermined by a lack of reliable electricity.

Mr. ENGEL and I visited a power provider in rural Tanzania, which would help meet the goals of this bill, in a place where only 10 percent of the population has access to electricity. In areas like that throughout Africa, schoolchildren are forced to study by the light of kerosene lanterns. Cold storage of lifesaving vaccines is almost impossible without reliable electricity. Too many families resort to using charcoal or other toxic fuel sources because of the lack of affordable energy.

In Tanzania, we now have American entrepreneurs bringing new technology and management expertise to the remotest areas of Africa, and that is improving lives. Many of us on the committee have worked to transform our foreign assistance from programs that offer extensive Band-Aids to policies that support economic growth and independence. The Electrify Africa Act is part of this transition.

This bill mandates a clear and comprehensive U.S. policy providing the private sector with the platform that it needs to invest in African electricity.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman ROYCE, Subcommittee Chairman SMITH, and Ranking Member BASS. I also want to thank our Senate colleagues, especially Chairman CORKER and Ranking Member CARDIN, for advancing this effort. We are now in a place to send this legislation to the President’s desk.

Mr. Speaker, across sub-Saharan Africa, more than 600 million individuals live without access to reliable electricity. That is double the U.S. population without electricity, nearly two-thirds of their population.

For individuals, that deficit means not being able to grow a crop even if the rain is falling. For families, that deficit means many children are not able to go to school. For small businesses, that deficit means growth will not happen with the flip of a switch. It means a day’s work needs to come to an end at sunset, that food can’t be refrigerated, and that technology that is so valuable for connecting to the rest of the world can’t be relied upon.

For communities, lack of access to power undermines the ability of hospitals to deliver health care because
As we have seen in the recent Ebola epidemic and in the current Zika virus epidemic, it is vital that medicines and plasma be kept cold so that they don’t lose their potency. Of course, in the preservation of blood and so many other items that are essential to life, electricity facilitates their continuance and their potency.

It is unfortunate that the continent of Africa has so many people who have been denied the ability to enjoy the advances of science. Currently, only 290 million people out of about 914 million Africans have access to electricity and the total number lacking continues to rise.

Bioenergy, mainly fuel, wood, and charcoal, is still the major source of fuel, and as the chairman pointed out in his opening comments, it threatens the lives of so many people in Africa, including the eyesight of many of those who experience that.

The Electrify Africa Act takes an all-of-the-above approach—all of these good prospects—in promoting the widest selection of energy sources that includes all forms of fossil fuels, but also hydroelectric and renewable energy sources. This facilitates African nations to use all available energy sources. Coal, which is abundant in Africa, will be in the mix, and, hopefully, we can help them import clean coal technology to mitigate pollution.

Again, I thank the chairman for this legislation.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Bass), who is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations and who is a leader on sub-Saharan Africa issues.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2152, the Electrify Africa Act.

I commend the leadership and the work especially of our chair, Mr. ROYCE, of our ranking member, Mr. ENGEL, of our subcommittee chair, Mr. SMITH, and also of our committed members and staffs of the House Foreign Affairs Committee as well as of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on this critical bill.

Because of this bill, the lives of millions of people can be changed immeasurably for the better.

I remind my colleagues that two-thirds of the population of sub-Saharan Africa live without electricity, particularly in the rural areas. This means that hundreds of millions of people require power to allow us to lead more productive lives in the modern world and increasingly in the developing world.

The effort to devise an inexpensive, safe, and reliable source of power is being addressed not only in the small, brilliant initiatives by young African entrepreneurs, such as by those whom I met when I had the honor of traveling with President Obama to the 2015 Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Nairobi, but also in the large, innovative public-private partnerships, such as Power Africa.

Electrify Africa can contribute to this effort in a major way by helping to address the glaring absence of electrical power for at least 50 million people in sub-Saharan Africa by 2020, thus improving the education, health care, and other basic needs of millions of Africans.

The lack of access to power adversely affects broad-based economic development on the continent. This was particularly evident last year during the Ebola crisis in three small African countries. That battle was won with the help of the U.S. and with well-coordinated regional efforts on the ground. Yet, in order to win the war against other crippling diseases, there must be greater access to electrical power.

Working together, we have drafted legislation that will focus on increasing access to electricity in rural and poor communities through small, renewable energy projects that will result in at least millions of Africans having access to electricity for the first time in their lives by 2020.

When we worked together last year to pass AGOA, we knew much more was needed in order to build the infrastructure that supported African nations in their ability to develop the capacity to become self-sufficient and self-determined. As you can see, the United States has increased in the developing world.

power to allow us to lead more productive lives in the global economy or strong partners on the global stage. The better these countries do, the better it is for their neighbors, for their region, and for the entire world.

As you can see, the United States has an interest in helping these countries grapple with this challenge and making sure the lights stay on. That is why the Electrify Africa Act is such an important bill.

This legislation puts into law President Obama’s 2013 Power Africa initiative. It seeks to create strong, new partnerships among governments, banks, and other private sector investors with the aim of providing first-time power to 50 million people by the year 2020. It calls for a long-term strategy from our own government for assisting sub-Saharan African countries with their energy strategies, and it directs other American agencies to make assistance for power projects in sub-Saharan Africa a top priority. It helps bring American influence to bear around the world to encourage international bodies to bring a new focus on this challenge.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding.

I want to congratulate Chairman ROYCE on the Electrify Africa Act as a companion bill to the legislation that we have before us today. We held a hearing in my subcommittee that KAREN Bass will remember well in November of 2014. The blessings that will accrue from a huge effort to electrify Africa are almost without limit, especially when it comes to health care and ensuring that students can have proper light to go to school and to study, particularly at night. All of the benefits that we take for granted in the United States and in other parts of the world still have yet to come to Africa.

In the 21st century, energy has become vital, as we all know, to modern societies. We no longer have to shop for food each day. Refrigerators keep food cold and preserved longer, whether in our homes, in restaurants, or during the process of transportation. Cell phones, computers, televisions, and other private sector investments require power to allow us to lead more productive lives in the modern world and increasingly in the developing world.

The lack of access to power adversely affects broad-based economic development on the continent. This was particularly evident last year during the Ebola crisis in three small African countries. That battle was won with the help of the U.S. and with well-coordinated regional efforts on the ground. Yet, in order to win the war against other crippling diseases, there must be greater access to electrical power.

Working together, we have drafted legislation that will focus on increasing access to electricity in rural and poor communities through small, renewable energy projects that will result in at least millions of Africans having access to electricity for the first time in their lives by 2020.

When we worked together last year to pass AGOA, we knew much more was needed in order to build the infrastructure that supported African nations in their ability to develop the capacity to become self-sufficient and self-determined. As you can see, the United States has...
I also acknowledge Andrew Herscowitz—the USAID Power Africa’s coordinator—and his team, who are watching this debate right now in the gallery.

I think, as we look at the range of energy legislation, at the last count I took, we had letters of support from 35 African ambassadors, from the Chamber of Commerce, from the Corporate Council on Africa, from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, from the American Academy of Pediatrics, and, of course, from the ONE Campaign.

The United States has economic and national security interests in the continued development of the African continent. This bill sets out a comprehensive, sustainable, and market-based plan to bring 600 million Africans out of the dark and into the global economy, benefiting American businesses and workers at the same time and, frankly, saving lives at the same time.

So I urge all Members to support the Electrify Africa Act.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of S. 2152 an important legislation.

I support S. 2152 because it seeks to establish a comprehensive United States policy that encourages the efforts of countries in Africa to develop an appropriate mix of electricity solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes.

According to the World Bank, those living on $1.25 a day in Africa accounted for 48.5% of the population in that region in 2010.

Moreover, the U.S. Energy Information Administration statistics state that in 2011 the whole of Africa possessed only 78 gigawatts of installed generation capacity, of which South Africa accounted for 44 gigawatts.

By comparison, installed capacity in the United States alone was 1,053 gigawatts.

In other words, all of Africa has only 7% of the electric capacity of the United States.

This is why S. 2152 is important, as it can be instrumental in helping to facilitate higher energy capacities in Africa.

Furthermore, actual production capacity for Africa is likely to be substantially lower than the theoretical quantity because of inadequate maintenance, outmoded equipment and fuel shortages.

Per-capita data, a US citizen on average uses 12,461 kilowatt hours of electricity per annum; a citizen of Ethiopia uses 52.

On average, only 30% of Africa’s citizens have any access to electric energy, and even where electricity is available, provision can be sporadic, with frequent electricity cuts and “brownouts.”

For now, the continent remains largely dependent on hydroelectricity with 13 countries utilizing hydroelectricity for 60% or more of their energy.

But, hydroelectricity relies on rain and Africa’s rainfall is sporadic at best.

The reliance on sporadic rainfall adversely impacts the effectiveness and accessibility to hydroelectricity sources.

Energy is a key life blood of every economy and community. In addition to electricity in homes, the energy sector has been instrumental in creating millions of jobs, providing lighting to communities and healthcare centers, fueling our vehicles, encouraging literacy and life expectancy.

As an advocate for energy empowerment in Africa, I have championed energy brain trusts that are convened to serve as a platform for all relevant stakeholders from the energy sectors including coal, electric, natural gas, nuclear, oil and emerging energy sources such as wind, solar, hydroelectricity and turbine energy.

I support the Electrify Africa Act as it will address the energy issues of the day.

As you all may know, with enthusiasm, optimism and a collaborative spirit I partnered with my colleagues here in Congress and experts in other U.S. agencies such as USAID, which has been spearheading innovative energy initiatives through its inter-agency efforts.

This legislation is important because it will increase the number of people with new access to electricity services.

This legislation will improve and expand the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity.

I support this legislation because it provides reliable electricity to people and businesses in urban and rural communities.

It will address the energy needs of citizens living in areas where there is little or no access to electricity grids. It is also important because it will help develop plans to systemically increase coverage in rural areas.

It will facilitate the reduction in transmission and distribution losses and improve end-use efficiency and demand-side management as well as end energy-related impediments to business productivity and investment.

Additionally, this legislation will facilitate the capacity of countries in Africa to monitor appropriately and transparently the regulation of the power sector.

It will also serve as an economic stimulator because it will encourage private investment in energy production and distribution.

Overall, this legislation is important because it makes accessible a human necessity: electricity, which will dramatically improve the quality of life of children, women and men.

Access to electricity will aid the mid-wife in successfully delivering a healthy child, while insuring the mother’s successful recovery.

Access to electricity, taken for granted in some parts of the world is critical in Africa because it will provide the light for a child to do his or her homework.

Electricity gives Africa’s future innovator, politician and teacher access to the internet: opening countless doors.

I support this legislation because it will promote first-time access to electricity and electricity services for at least 50,000,000 people in Africa.

This legislation will facilitate the installation of at least 20,000 additional megawatts of electricity in Africa by 2020 in both urban and rural areas.

When Africa succeeds the world succeeds and this is why I support this legislation and I thank my colleagues for their bipartisan support across both chambers of the House.

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, S. 2152.

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.

AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF HUNGARY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-95)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Ways and Means ordered to be printed

To the Congress of the United States:


The Agreements are similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with most European Union countries, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries.

The Agreements contain all provisions mandated by section 233 of the Social Security Act and the provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4) of the Social Security Act.

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act for the estimated number of individuals who will be affected by the Agreements and the estimated cost effect. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreements to me.

I commend the Agreements and related documents. BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 1, 2016.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H401

FAIR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERTS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinanced business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2187) to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise its regulations regarding the qualifications of natural persons as accredited investors, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered to be printed.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 347, nays 8, not voting 78, as follows:

[Table of Yeas and Nays]

Mr. SCHANKOWSKY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 46, I was meeting with constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."
SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL FORMATION ENHANCEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4168) to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act, 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 New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 390, nays 1, not voting 42, as follows: (Roll No. 47)

YEAS—390

Abraham
Abrams
Adams
Aderholt
Agner
Akin
Allard
Allan
Allen
Altmire
Amash
Amodei
Anderson
Andrews
Anthony
Apperson
Archer
Armstrong
Asa
Askins
Atkins
Augusta
Aumua
Babin
Baker
Baldwin
Ballenger
Barker
Barrett
Baumgartner
Bera
Bera
Beresford
Bilirakis
Biaggi
Bilirakis
Black
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan
Brown
Brown
Buchanan
Buck
Buchanan
Burges
Burts
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Cardenas
Carney
Carson
Carter
Carter
Carter
Chabot
Chaffetz
Cheney
Clyburn
Collins
Collins
Collins
Collins
Conyers
Cook
Coles
Collins
Collins

Labrador
Lahood
Lamborn
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Logan
Lewandowski
Lewis
Lew
Loesemann
Lujan Grisham
Lujan, Ben Ray (NM)
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney
Carolyn
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
MCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley
McNerney
Meadows
Meeson
Mica
Mills (FL)
Mills (MI)
Moore
Moulton
Mulvaney
Murphy
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Nolan
North Carolina
Nunes
O’Rourke
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pardue
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
PoCano
Poe (TX)
Polis
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratliff
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rouzy (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Roy
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schrader
Schock
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sensenbrenner

AYE

Amodei
Amodei
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Burr
Carter (TX)
Clarke (NY)
Crowley
Cummings
Duncan
Edwards
Engel
Farrakhan
Franken
Grijalva

Mullin
Nadler
Pompeo
Rokita
Husk
Santarsiero
Santarsiero
Scheuer
Smiley
Smiley
Waterhouse

NOT VOTING—42

Nunes
O’Rourke
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pardue
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
PoCano
Poe (TX)
Polis
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratliff
Reed
Renacci
Ribble
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rouzy (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Roy
Ruppersberger
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schrader
Schock
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Sensenbrenner

AYE

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, my vote was not recorded on Roll Call #46 on H.R. 2187—Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act. I am not recorded because I was absent due to awaiting the impending birth of my son in San Antonio, Texas. Had I been present I would have voted AYE.

Mr. Speaker, my vote was not recorded on Roll Call #47 on H.R. 4168—Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act. I am not recorded because I was absent due to awaiting the impending birth of my son in San Antonio, Texas. Had I been present I would have voted AYE.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1019 AND H.R. 1401

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I be removed as a cosponsor from both H.R. 1019 and H.R. 1401.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 546

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker. I ask unanimous consent that I be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 546, the ACE Kids Act.

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

There was no objection.

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 the additional motion 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.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 4188) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015”.

H402
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE
February 1, 2016
**CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE**

**February 1, 2016**

**SEC. 1. Short title.**

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

**SEC. 2. Table of contents.**

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

**TITLE I—AUTHORIZATIONS**

**Sec. 101. Authorizations.**

**TITLE II—COAST GUARD**

**Sec. 201. Vice Commandant.**

**Sec. 202. Vessel replacement.**

**Sec. 203. Coast Guard mission and training costs, equipment, and training.**

**Sec. 204. Acquisition of new vessels.**

**Sec. 205. Auxiliary jurisdiction.**

**Sec. 206. Coast Guard reserve.**

**Sec. 207. Polar icebreakers.**

**Sec. 208. Air facility closures.**

**Sec. 209. Technical corrections to title 14, United States Code.**

**Sec. 210. niệm of the President under section 2116 of title 46;**

**Sec. 211. Merchant marine educational program.**

**Sec. 212. Program guidelines.**

**Sec. 213. Coast Guard graduate maritime operations.**

**Sec. 214. Professional development.**

**Sec. 215. Senior enlisted member continuation special compensation.**

**Sec. 216. Coast Guard member pay.**

**Sec. 217. Transfer of funds necessary to provide medical care.**

**Sec. 218. Participation of the Coast Guard in the United States Code.**

**Sec. 219. National Coast Guard Museum.**

**Sec. 220. Investigations.**

**Sec. 221. Clarification of eligibility of members of the Coast Guard for combat-related special compensation.**

**Sec. 222. Leave policies for the Coast Guard.**

**TITLE III—SHIPPING AND NAVIGATION**

**Sec. 301. Service member pay.**

**Sec. 302. Vessel replacement.**

**Sec. 303. Model years for recreational vessels.**

**Sec. 304. Merchant marine credential expiration harmonization.**

**Sec. 305. Safety zones for permitted marine events.**

**Sec. 306. Technical corrections.**

**Sec. 307. Recommendations for improvements of marine casualty reporting.**

**Sec. 308. Recreational vessel engine weights.**

**Sec. 309. Merchant marine medical certification reform.**

**Sec. 310. Atlantic Coast port access route study.**

**Sec. 311. Certificates of documentation for recreational vessels.**

**Sec. 312. Program guidelines.**

**Sec. 313. Repeals.**

**Sec. 314. Maritime drug law enforcement.**

**Sec. 315. Authorization for merchant mariner credentials.**

**Sec. 316. Higher volume port area regulatory definition change.**

**Sec. 317. Recognition of port security assessments conducted by other entities.**

**Sec. 318. Fishing vessel and fish tender vessel certification.**

**Sec. 319. Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research.**

**Sec. 320. International port and facility inspection coordination.**

**Sec. 321. Authorization of appropriations.**

**Sec. 322. Duties of the Chairman.**

**Sec. 323. Prohibition on awards.**

**TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION**

**Sec. 401. Authorization of appropriations.**

**Sec. 402. Duty of the Chairman.**

**Sec. 403. Prohibition on awards.**

**Sec. 404. Definitions.**

**Sec. 405. Authority to convey land in Point Spencer.**

**Sec. 406. Environmental compliance, liability, and monitoring.**

**Sec. 407. Easements and access.**

**Sec. 408. Relationship to Public Land Order 2650.**

**Sec. 409. Archeological and cultural resources.**

**Sec. 410. Maps and legal descriptions.**

**Sec. 411. Charcoal for land conveyed.**

**Sec. 412. Redundant capability.**

**Sec. 413. Port Coordination Council for Point Spencer.**

**TITLE V—MISCELLANEOUS**

**Sec. 501. Modification of reports.**

**Sec. 502. Safe vessel operation in the Great Lakes.**

**Sec. 503. Use of vessel sale proceeds.**

**Sec. 504. National Academy of Sciences cost assessment.**

**Sec. 505. Coastwise endorsements.**

**Sec. 506. International Ice Patrol.**

**Sec. 507. Assessment of oil spill response and cleanup activities in the Great Lakes.**

**Sec. 508. Report on status of technology detecting passengers who have fallen overboard.**

**Sec. 509. Venue.**

**Sec. 510. Dredging of infrastructure related to e-loran.**

**Sec. 511. Parking.**

**Sec. 512. Inapplicability of load line requirements to certain United States vessels traveling in the Gulf of Mexico.**

**TITLE I—AUTHORIZATIONS**

**Sec. 101. Authorizations.**

(a) **In General.—**On the date on which the President submits to the Congress a budget for fiscal year 2016 under section 1105 of title 31, on the date on which the President submits to the Congress a budget for fiscal year 2017 under such section, and each 4 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a manpower requirements plan.

(b) **Scope.—**A manpower requirements plan submitted under subsection (a) shall include for each mission of the Coast Guard—

(1) an assessment of all projected mission requirements for the upcoming fiscal year and for each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter; and

(2) the number of active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel required to fulfill such mission requirements—

(A) currently; and

(B) as projected for the upcoming fiscal year and each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter.

(c) **Consideration.—**In composing a manpower requirements plan for submission under subsection (a), the Commandant shall consider—

(i) the marine safety strategy required under section 2116 of title 46; and

(ii) any other factors relevant to creating a balanced and effective acquisition workforce included in the most recent report under section 2903 of this title; and

(d) **Requirement for Prior Authorization of Appropriations.—**Section 602 of title 14, United States Code, shall be applied to address capability gaps identified under paragraph (4).

**Sec. 2901. Manpower requirements plan**

"(a) **In General.—**On the date on which the President submits to the Congress a budget for fiscal year 2016 under section 1105 of title 31, on the date on which the President submits to the Congress a budget for fiscal year 2017 under such section, and each 4 years thereafter, the Commandant shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a manpower requirements plan.

(b) Scope.—A manpower requirements plan submitted under subsection (a) shall include for each mission of the Coast Guard—

(1) an assessment of all projected mission requirements for the upcoming fiscal year and for each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter; and

(2) the number of active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel required to fulfill such mission requirements—

(A) currently; and

(B) as projected for the upcoming fiscal year and each of the 3 fiscal years thereafter.

(c) Consideration.—In composing a manpower requirements plan for submission under subsection (a), the Commandant shall consider—

(i) the marine safety strategy required under section 2116 of title 46; and

(ii) any other factors relevant to creating a balanced and effective acquisition workforce included in the most recent report under section 2903 of this title; and

(d) Requirement for Prior Authorization of Appropriations.—Section 602 of title 14, United States Code, shall be applied to address capability gaps identified under paragraph (4)."
(2) by transferring such section to appear before section 2702 of such title (as added by subsection (a) of this section); and

(3) by striking paragraphs (1) through (5) and inserting the following:

"(1) For the operation and maintenance of the Coast Guard, not otherwise provided for.

"(2) For the acquisition, construction, renovation, modification, repair, replacement or operation of aids to navigation, shore facilities, vessels, and aircraft, including equipment related thereto, and for maintenance, rehabilitation, lease, and operation of facilities and equipment.

"(3) For the Coast Guard Reserve program, including operations and maintenance of the program, personnel and training costs, equipment, and services.

"(4) For the environmental compliance and restoration functions of the Coast Guard under chapter 19 of this title.

"(5) For research, development, test, and evaluation of technologies, materials, and human factors directly related to improving the performance of the Coast Guard.

"(6) For alteration or removal of bridges over navigable waters of the United States constituting obstructions to navigation, and for personnel and administrative costs associated with the Alteration of Bridges Program.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF PERSONNEL END STRENGTH.—Section 661 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating such section as section 2703; and

(2) by transferring such section to appear before section 2704 of such title (as added by subsection (a) of this section).

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) TRANSMISSION OF ANNUAL COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION REQUEST.—Section 662a of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating such section as section 2901;

(B) by transferring such section to appear before section 2904 of such title (as added by subsection (a) of this section); and

(C) in subsection (b)—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking "described in section 661" and inserting "described in section 2703"; and

(2) in paragraph (2) by striking "described in section 662" and inserting "described in section 2701".

(2) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—Section 663 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating such section as section 2902; and

(B) by transferring such section to appear after section 2904 of such title (as so redesignated and transferred by paragraph (1) of this subsection).

(MAJOR ACQUISITIONS.—Section 569a of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating such section as section 2903;

(B) by transferring such section to appear after section 2902 of such title (as so redesignated and transferred by paragraph (2) of this subsection); and

(C) in subsection (c)(2) by striking "of this subchapter".

(e) ICEBREAKERS—

(1) ICEBREAKING ON THE GREAT LAKES.—For fiscal years 2016 and 2017, the Commandant of the Coast Guard may use funds made available pursuant to section 2702(2) of title 14, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this section) for the construction of an icebreaker that is capable of buoy tending to enhance icebreaking capacity on the Great Lakes.

(2) IN TITLE TWO.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 2702(2) of title 14, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a), there is authorized to be appropriated $4,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2017 for preacquisition activities for a new polar icebreaker, including initial specification development and feasibility studies.

(f) ADDITIONAL SUBMISSIONS.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the House of Representatives—

(1) each plan required under section 2904 of title 14, United States Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section;

(2) each plan required under section 2903(e) of title 14, United States Code, as added by section 206 of this Act; and

(3) each plan required under section 2902 of title 14, United States Code, as redesignated by subsection (d) of this section; and

(4) each mission need statement required under section 569 of title 14, United States Code.

SEC. 102. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) ANALYSIS FOR TITLE 14.—The analysis for title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to part II the following:

"II. Coast Guard Authorizations and Reports to Congress .......................... 2701.

(b) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 15.—The analysis for chapter 15 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 569a.

(c) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 17.—The analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by section 101(a) of this Act, is amended by striking the items relating to sections 661, 662, 662a, and 663.

(d) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 27.—The analysis for chapter 27 of title 14, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, is amended by inserting—

(1) before the item relating to section 2702 the following:

"2701. Requirement for prior authorization of appropriations.

and

(2) before the item relating to section 2704 the following:

"2703. Authorization of personnel end strengths.

(e) ANALYSIS FOR CHAPTER 29.—The analysis for chapter 29 of title 14, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of this Act, is amended by inserting—

(1) before the item relating to section 2902 the following:

"2901. Transmission of annual Coast Guard authorization request.

"2902. Capital investment plan.

"2903. Major acquisitions.

(f) MISSION NEED STATEMENT.—Section 569(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking "in section 569a(e)" and inserting "in section 2903"; and

(2) in paragraph (3) by striking "under section 663a(1)" and inserting "under section 2902a(1)".

TITLE II—COAST GUARD

SEC. 201. VICE COMMANDANT.

(a) RANKS AND RATINGS.—Section 41 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking "an admiral," and inserting "admirals (two);".

(b) VICE COMMANDANT.—Section 662 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) The President may—

"(A) designate, within the Coast Guard, no more than five positions of importance and responsibility that shall be held by officers who—

"(i) shall have the grade of vice admiral, with the pay and allowances of that grade; and

"(ii) shall perform any such duties as the Commandant may prescribe, except that if the President designates five such positions, one position shall be the Chief of Staff of the Coast Guard;

and

"(B) designate, within the executive branch, other than within the Coast Guard or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, any positions of importance and responsibility that shall be held by officers who, while so serving, shall have the grade of vice admiral, with the pay and allowances of that grade;

and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A) by striking "under paragraph (1)" and inserting "under paragraph (1)(A)"; and

and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

"(C) at the discretion of the Secretary, while awaiting orders after being relieved from the position, beginning on the day the officer is relieved from the position, but not for more than 60 days; and"

SEC. 202. COAST GUARD REMISSION OF INDEBTEDNESS.

(a) EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY TO REMIT INDEBTEDNESS.—Section 461 of title 14, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§461. Remission of indebtedness

"The Secretary may have remitted or cancelled any part of a person's indebtedness to the United States or any instrumentality of the United States if—

(1) the indebtedness was incurred while the person served on active duty as a member of the Coast Guard;

and

(2) the Secretary determines that remitting or cancelling the indebtedness is in the best interest of the United States.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 461 and inserting the following:

"§461. Remission of indebtedness.

SEC. 204. ACQUISITION REFORM.

(a) MINIMUM PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—Section 572(d)(3) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (H) as subparagraphs (E) through (J), respectively;

(2) by redesigning subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C);

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

"(B) the performance data to be used to determine whether the key performance parameters have been resolved;

and

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (C), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, the following:

"(D) the results of test and evaluation that will be required to demonstrate that a capability, asset, or subsystem meets performance requirements;".

(b) CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN.—Section 2902 of title 14, United States Code, as redesignated and otherwise amended by this Act, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

"(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking "completion based on the proposed appropriations included in the budget;"; and

"(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking "at the proposed funding levels;" and inserting "based on the proposed appropriations included in the budget;";"; and
(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c), and inserting after subsection (a) the following:

"(b) NEW CAPITAL ASSETS.—In the fiscal year following each fiscal year for which appropriations are enacted for a new capital asset, the report submitted under subsection (a) shall include—
(1) an estimated life-cycle cost estimate for the new capital asset;
(2) an assessment of the impact the new capital asset will have on—
(A) delivery dates for each capital asset;
(B) estimated completion dates for each capital asset;
(C) the total estimated cost to complete each capital asset;
and
(D) other planned construction or improvement projects;
and
(3) recommended funding levels for each capital asset necessary to meet the estimated completion dates and total estimated costs included in such asset’s ‘approved acquisition program baseline.’;"; and

(3) by amending subsection (c), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

"(c) UPDATE.—(1) Beginning on January 1, 2016, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall—
(1) implement a standard for tracking operational days at sea for Coast Guard cutters that does not include days during which such cutters are undergoing maintenance or repair; and
(2) notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a revised fleet mix analysis of Coast Guard fixed wing aircraft.

(e) LONG-TERM MAJOR ACQUISITIONS PLAN.—Section 202 of title 14, United States Code, as redesignated and otherwise amended by this Act, is further amended—
(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (a); and
(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

"(e) LONG-TERM MAJOR ACQUISITIONS PLAN.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include a plan that describes for the upcoming fiscal year, and for each of the 20 fiscal years thereafter—
(1) the numbers and types of cutters and aircraft to be acquired;
(2) the numbers and types of cutters and aircraft to be acquired to—
(A) acquire the cutters and aircraft identified under paragraph (1); or
(B) address an identified capability gap; and
(3) the estimated level of funding in each fiscal year;" (i) by inserting "the" before "Coast Guard assets that are necessary to meet the estimated program projects"; and
(ii) by striking "and the" before "the" in clause (ii) of section (b) and inserting "in addition to any program projects;

(f) QUARTERLY UPDATES ON RISKS OF PROGRAMS.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days after the end of the fiscal year quarter, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committees of Congress a report that includes—
(1) a complete materiel condition assessment and associated data to include—
(A) the commandant’s determination of the risks associated with the Coast Guard’s existing major acquisition programs;
(B) an assessment of the impact the new major acquisition programs to be reported will have on the risks associated with the existing major acquisition programs;

(h) QUARTERLY UPDATES ON RISKS OF PROGRAMS.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days after the end of each fiscal year quarter, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committees of Congress a report that includes—
(1) an assessment of the risks associated with the Coast Guard’s existing major acquisition programs;

(i) CLARIFICATION.—In the Senate a written notification of—
(1) the commandant’s determination of the risks associated with the Coast Guard’s existing major acquisition programs;
(2) any failure of such program to demonstrate a key performance parameter or threshold during operational test and evaluation conducted during the fiscal year quarter preceding such update;

(j) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operated shall—
(1) complete a materiel condition assessment and associated data to include—
(A) the commandant’s determination of the risks associated with the Coast Guard’s existing major acquisition programs;
(B) an assessment of the impact the new major acquisition programs to be reported will have on the risks associated with the existing major acquisition programs;

(k) QUARTERLY UPDATES ON RISKS OF PROGRAMS.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days after the end of each fiscal year quarter, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committees of Congress a report that includes—
(1) a complete materiel condition assessment to include—
(A) an assessment of the risks associated with the Coast Guard’s existing major acquisition programs;
(B) an assessment of the impact the new major acquisition programs to be reported will have on the risks associated with the existing major acquisition programs;

(l) QUARTERLY UPDATES ON RISKS OF PROGRAMS.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days after the end of each fiscal year quarter, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committees of Congress a report that includes—
(1) an assessment of the risks associated with the Coast Guard’s existing major acquisition programs;
“(2) DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary may not propose closing or terminating operations at a Coast Guard air facility unless the Secretary determines that—

(A) remaining search and rescue capabilities maintain the safety of the maritime public in the area of the air facility;

(B) prevailing weather conditions, including water temperatures or unusual tide and current conditions, do not require continued operation of the air facility; and

(C) Coast Guard search and rescue standards related to search and response times are met.

(3) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—Prior to closing an air facility, the Secretary shall provide opportunities for public comment, including the convening of public meetings in communities in the area of responsibility of the air facility with regard to the proposed closure or cessation of operations at the air facility.

(4) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Prior to closure, cessation of operations, or any significant reduction in personnel and use of a Coast Guard air facility that is in operation on or after December 31, 2015, the Secretary shall—

(A) submit to the Congress a proposal for such closure, cessation, or reduction in operations; and

(B) submit to the budget of the President submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31 for the fiscal year in which the action will be carried out; and

(5) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date a proposal for an air facility is submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A), provide written notice of such proposal to each member of the Senate who represents a district in which the air facility is located.

(6) CLOSURE.—(A) Each member of the House of Representatives who represents a district in which the air facility is located shall provide a notification to the appropriate committees of the House of Representatives.

(ii) Each member of the House of Representatives who represents a district in which assets of the air facility network, such as modifying the operating area of the air facility, are leased, as determined by the Secretary, may implement any reasonable management efficiencies within the air station and air facilities to modify the operational posture of units or reallocating resources as necessary to ensure the safety of the maritime public nationwide.

(ii) The Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(iii) The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

(iii) The Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(iv) The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(B) OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY.—The Secretary may implement any reasonable management efficiencies within the air station and air facilities to modify the operational posture of units or reallocating resources as necessary to ensure the safety of the maritime public nationwide.

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall—

(A) in the fiscal year in which the Coast Guard is operating shall and Coast Guard response capabilities.

(B) the Secretary shall—

(1) in the analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 676 the following:

“767a. Air facility closures.”.

(C) the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of the process established under subsection (a). The Secretary shall consult with the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of the process established under subsection (a). The Secretary shall consult with the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of the process established under subsection (a).

(7) in the analysis for chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting the following:

“19. Environmental Compliance and Restoration Program 890;”

(2) in section 46(a), by striking “subsection” and inserting “section”;

(3) in section 47, in the heading by striking “commandant” and inserting “Commandant”;

(4) in section 93(f), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“2. LIMITATION.—The Commandant may lease submerged lands and tidelands under paragraph (1) only if—

(A) the lease is for cash exclusively;

(B) the lease price is equal to the fair market value of the use of the leased submerged lands or tidelands for the period during which such lands are leased, as determined by the Commandant;

(C) the lease does not provide authority to or commit the Coast Guard to use or support any improvements to such submerged lands and tidal lands, or obtain goods and services from the lessee; and

(D) proceeds from the lease are deposited in the Coast Guard Housing Fund established under section 687;”;

(5) in the analysis for chapter 9, by striking the item relating to section 199 and inserting the following:

“199. Marine safety curriculum.”;

(6) in section 427(b)(2), by striking “this chapter” and inserting “chapter 61 of title 10”;

(7) in the analysis for chapter 15 before the item relating to section 571, by striking the following:

“Sec.;”.

(8) in section 581(3)(B), by striking “$300,000,000” and inserting “$300,000,000,000”;

(9) in section 627(c)(3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by inserting “it is” before “any”;

(10) in section 641(d)(3), by striking “Guard, installation” and inserting “Guard installation”;
(c) STRATEGIC.—The pilot program shall be consistent with the strategy required by the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act (Public Law 114–29).

(d) Pilot program shall commence within 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act or within 60 days after the completion of the strategy required by the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act (Public Law 114–29), whichever is later.

SEC. 213. COAST GUARD GRADUATE MARITIME OPERATIONS EDUCATION.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall conduct, in an education program, for members and employees of the Coast Guard, that—

(1) offers a master’s degree in maritime operations;

(2) is relevant to the professional development of such members and employees;

(3) provides resident and distant education options, including the ability to utilize both options;

(4) to the greatest extent practicable, is conducted using existing academic programs at an accredited public academic institution that—

(A) is located near a significant number of Coast Guard, maritime, and other Department of Homeland Security law enforcement personnel;

(B) has an ability to simulate operations normally conducted at a command center.

SEC. 214. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

(a) MULTIRATER ASSESSMENT.

(1) In general.—Chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 428 the following:

"§429. Multirater assessment of certain personnel.

"(a) Multirater assessment of certain personnel.—

"(1) In general.—Commencing not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall develop and implement a plan to conduct every two years a multirater assessment for each of the following:

(A) Each flag officer of the Coast Guard;

(B) Each member of the Senior Executive Service of the Coast Guard;

(C) the Coast Guard Commandant nominated for promotion to the grade of flag officer.

"(2) Post-assessment elements.—Following an assessment of an individual pursuant to paragraph (1), the Commandant shall—

(A) review the performance of each member and employee involved in the assessment;

(B) ensure that all members and employees involved in the assessment are provided appropriate post-assessment counseling and leadership coaching.

"(b) Multirater assessment defined.—In this section, the term ‘multirater assessment’ means a review that seeks opinion from members senior to the reviewee and the peers and subordinates of the reviewee.

"(2) Clerical amendment.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item related to section 428 the following:

"429. Multirater assessment of certain personnel.

(b) Training course on workings of Congress

(1) In general.—Chapter 3 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding after the end of such chapter the following:

"§60. Training course on workings of Congress

(1) In general.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant, in consultation with the Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy and such other individuals and organizations as the Commandant considers appropriate, shall develop a training course on the workings of the Congress and offer that training course at least once each year.

(2) Course subject matter.—The training course required by this section shall provide an overview of such matters as the roles of the Congress and the Federal legislative process, including—

(A) the history and structure of the Congress and the committee systems of the House of Representatives and Senate, including the functions and responsibilities of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the documents produced by the Congress, including bills, resolutions, committee reports, and executive orders, and the purposes and functions of those documents;

(C) the legislative processes and rules of the House of Representatives and the Senate, including similarities and differences between the two processes and rules, including—

(i) the congressional budget process;

(ii) the congressional authorization and appropriation processes;

(iii) the Senate advice and consent process for Presidential nominees;

(iv) the Senate advice and consent process for treaty ratification;

(v) the roles of Members of Congress and congressional staff in the legislative process; and

(vi) the concept and underlying purposes of congressional oversight within our governance framework of separation of powers.

"(3) Lectures and panelists.—

(A) Outside experts.—The Commandant shall ensure that not less than 60 percent of the lectures, panelists, and other individuals providing education and instruction as part of the training course required by this section are experts on the Congress and the Federal legislative process who are not employed by the executive branch of the Federal Government.

(B) Authority to accept pro bono services.—In satisfying the requirement under paragraph (1), the Commandant shall seek, and may accept, educational and instructional services of lecturers, panelists, and other individuals and organizations provided to the Coast Guard on a pro bono basis.

"(4) Completion of required training.—

"(1) In general.—Section 357 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking the item relating to such section;

(B) by inserting at the end the following:

"519. Annual audit of pay and allowances of members undergoing permanent change of station.

"(1) In general.—Chapter 13 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§519. Annual audit of pay and allowances of members undergoing permanent change of station.

"The Commandant shall conduct each calendar year an audit of member pay and allowances for the members who transferred to new duty during such calendar year. The audit for a calendar year shall be completed by the end of the calendar year."

"(2) clerical amendment.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

"519. Annual audit of pay and allowances of members undergoing permanent change of station.

"The Commandant shall conduct each calendar year an audit of member pay and allowances for the members who transferred to new duty during such calendar year. The audit for a calendar year shall be completed by the end of the calendar year.".
the Commandant may enter into a contract or cooperative agreement under paragraph (1)(A) on a sole-source basis.

(3) MAINTAINING FAIRNESS, OBJECTIVITY, AND INTEGRITY.—The Commandant shall ensure that contributions under this subsection do not—

(A) reflect unfavorably on the ability of the Coast Guard, or any other member of the armed forces to carry out any responsibility or duty in a fair and objective manner; or

(B) compromise the integrity or appearance of integrity of any program of the Coast Guard, or any individual involved in such a program.

(4) LIMITATION.—For purposes of this subsection, an employee of a qualified organization shall not be employees of the United States.

(5) QUALIFIED ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘qualified organization’ means an organization—

(A) described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code; and

(B) established by the Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association solely for the purpose of supporting the mission and activities of the academy and maintaining Federal, State, or other educational grants on behalf of the Coast Guard Academy.’’

SEC. 219. NATIONAL COAST GUARD MUSEUM.

Section 98(b) of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking any appropriated Federal funds and inserting any appropriated Federal funds to the Coast Guard; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ‘‘artifacts,’’ and inserting ‘‘artifacts, including the design, fabrication, and exhibits or displays in which such artifacts are included.’’.

SEC. 220. INVESTIGATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 14, United States Code, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

§430. Investigations of flag officers and Senior Executive Service employees.

‘‘In conducting an investigation into an allegation of misconduct by a flag officer or member of the Senior Executive Service serving in the Coast Guard, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall—

(1) conduct the investigation in a manner consistent with Department of Defense policies for such an investigation; and

(2) consult with the Inspector General of the Department of Defense.’’.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis at the beginning of such chapter is further amended by inserting after the item related to section 429 the following:

‘‘§430. Investigations of flag officers and Senior Executive Service employees.’’.

SEC. 221. CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY MEMBERS OF THE COAST GUARD FOR COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION.

(a) CONSIDERATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall issue such procedures and criteria in accordance with such procedures and criteria prescribed in that subsection that are incurred pursuant to subsection (a) shall apply to disabilities described in that subsection that are incurred on or after the effective date specified in subsection (b) and ending on the date of the issuance of the procedures and criteria required by this subsection, and the Secretary of the Navy shall promulgate a new rule, policy, or memorandum pursuant to section 704 of title 10, United States Code, with respect to leave associated with the birth or adoption of a child, the Secretary of the Navy shall ensure that the procedures and criteria in such a program provide that a passenger vessel be equipped with survival craft that ensures that no part of an individual is immersed in water, if—

(1) such vessel is built or undergoes a major conversion after January 1, 2016; and

(2) operates in cold waters as determined by the Secretary.

(b) HIGHER STANDARD OF SAFETY.—The Secretary shall issue regulations to ensure that the procedures and criteria required by this subsection are in effect before January 1, 2016.
higher standard of safety than is provided by the regulations in effect on or before the date of the enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015.

(c) FISHERY AND NOVEL DESIGNS.—The Secretary may, in lieu of the requirements set out in part 117 or part 180 of title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, approve an innovative or novel design under a fishery management plan issued under that Act, and that is replaced by a vessel that is constructed or rebuilt with a loan or loan guarantee provided by the Government may not be used to harvest fish in any fishery under the jurisdiction of any regional fishery management council, other than a fishery under the jurisdiction of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council or the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

SEC. 302. VESSEL REPLACEMENT.

(a) LOANS AND GUARANTEES.—Chapter 537 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesigning paragraphs (8) through (14) as paragraphs (9) through (15), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the following:

"(8) HISTORICAL USE.—The term ‘historical uses’ includes—

(A) refurbishing, repairing, rebuilding, or replacing equipment on a fishing vessel, without materially increasing harvesting capacity;

(B) purchasing a used fishing vessel;

(C) purchasing, constructing, expanding, or reconditioning a fishing facility;

(D) refinancing existing debt;

(E) reducing fishing capacity; and

(F) making upgrades to a fishing vessel, including upgrades in technology, gear, or equipment, that improve—

(i) collection and reporting of fishing-dependent data;

(ii) bycatch reduction or avoidance;

(iii) gear selectivity;

(iv) adverse impacts caused by fishing gear; or

(v) safety.");

(b) APPLICATION.—This section shall only apply with respect to recreational vessels and associated equipment constructed or manufactured, respectively, on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 303. MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL EX-PANDATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (c) and not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall establish a process to harmonize the expiration dates of merchant mariner credentials, mariner medical certificates, and radar observer endorsements for individuals applying to the Secretary for a new merchant mariner credential or for renewal of an existing merchant mariner credential.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the process established under subsection (a)—

(1) does not require an individual to renew a merchant mariner credential earlier than the date on which the individual’s current credential expires; and

(2) results in harmonization of expiration dates of merchant mariner credentials, mariner medical certificates, and radar observer endorsements for all individuals by not later than 6 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) EXCEPTION.—The process established under subsection (a) does not apply to individuals—

(1) holding a merchant mariner credential with—

(A) an active Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping endorsement; or

(B) Federal first-class pilot endorsement; or

(2) who have been issued a time-restricted medical certificate.

SEC. 305. SAFETY ZONES FOR PERMITTED MA- RINE EVENTS.

Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall—

(1) account for the number of safety zones established for permitted marine events;

(2) differentiate whether the event sponsor is—

(A) an individual; or

(B) an organization; or
(C) a government entity; and
(3) account for Coast Guard resources utilized to enforce safety zones established for permitted marine events, including—
(A) the number of Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary vessels used; and
(B) the number of Coast Guard or Coast Guard Auxiliary patrol hours required.

SEC. 306. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

(a) TITLE 46.—Title 46, United States Code, is amended—
(1) in section 103, by striking “(33 U.S.C. 151),” and inserting “(33 U.S.C. 151(b),”;
(2) in section 2118—
(A) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “title,” and inserting “subtitle;”
(B) in subsection (b), by striking “title” and inserting “subtitle;”
and
(C) in the analysis for chapter 35—
(A) by adding a period at the end of the item relating to section 3507; and
(B) by adding a period at the end of the item relating to section 3508;
(4) in section 3715(a)(2), by striking “,” and inserting a semicolon;
(5) in section 4056, by striking “(a)”; and
(6) in section 4506, by striking “Academy,” and inserting “Academy; and”;

(b) relating to section 70107—
(A) in subsection (1), by striking “Secretary of Transportation” each place it appears and inserting “Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating”;
(B) in subsection (2), by striking “Act,” and inserting “Act);”;
and
(C) in the item relating to section 70122, by striking “watch program,” and inserting “Watch Program.”

(c) in section 70107—
(A) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “(33 U.S.C. 529(b),” and inserting “(33 U.S.C. 529(b).”;
(B) in subsection (m)(3)(C)(i), by striking “that is” and inserting “that the applicant;”;
and
(C) in subsection (m)(3)(C)(ii), by striking “(33 U.S.C. 529)”;

(d) in section 70122, by striking “watch program,” and inserting “Watch Program.”
and
(e) in section 70122, by striking “(D) paragraph” and inserting “(D) paragraph;”

(f) in section 70107—
(A) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “(33 U.S.C. 529(b),” and inserting “(33 U.S.C. 529(b).”;
(B) in subsection (m)(3)(C)(ii), by striking “that is” and inserting “that the applicant;”;

(g) in section 70122, by striking the heading, by striking “watch program” and inserting “Watch Program”;

(h) in section 70122, by striking “(D) paragraph” and inserting “(D) paragraph;”

(i) in section 70107—
(A) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “(33 U.S.C. 529(b),” and inserting “(33 U.S.C. 529(b).”;
(B) in subsection (m)(3)(C)(ii), by striking “that is” and inserting “that the applicant;”;

(j) in section 70122, by striking the heading, by striking “watch program” and inserting “Watch Program.”
and
(k) in section 70122, by striking “(D) paragraph” and inserting “(D) paragraph.”

2. TECHNICAL AND CLERICAL REFORM.

(a) MERCHANT MARINER MEDICAL CERTIFICATION REFORM.

(1) in general.—Chapter 75 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

(b) in section 7509. Medical certification by trusted agents—
(1) the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue medical certificates to mariners who submit applications for such certificates to the Secretary; and
(2) a trusted agent to defer to the Secretary the issuance of a medical certificate.

(c) TRUSTED AGENT DEFINED.—In this section the term ‘trusted agent’ means a medical practitioner certified by the Secretary to perform physical examinations of an individual for purposes of a license, certificate of registry, or merchant mariner’s document under this part.’’;

(d) DEADLINE.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue a final rule implementing this section shall include a process for—

(1) the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating to issue medical certificates to mariners who submit applications for such certificates to the Secretary; and
(2) a trusted agent to defer to the Secretary the issuance of a medical certificate.

(e) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

SEC. 310. ATLANTIC COAST PORT ACCESS ROUTE STUDY.

(a) ATLANTIC COAST PORT ACCESS ROUTE STUDY.—Not later than April 1, 2016, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall conclude the Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study and submit the results of such study to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(b) NANTUCKET SOUND.—Not later than December 1, 2016, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall complete and submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a port access route study of Nantucket Sound using the standards and methodology of the Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study, to determine whether the Coast Guard should revise existing regulations to improve navigation safety in Nantucket Sound due to factors such as vessel traffic, changing vessel traffic patterns, weather conditions, or navigational difficulty in the vicinity.

SEC. 311. CERTIFICATES OF DOCUMENTATION FOR RECREATIONAL VESSELS.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall issue regulations that—

(1) make certificates of documentation for recreational vessels effective for 5 years; and
(2) require the owner of such a vessel—
(A) to notify the Coast Guard of each change in the information on which the issuance of the certificate of documentation is based, that occurs before the expiration of the certificate; and
(B) to provide the Coast Guard with the documentation for such a vessel if there is any such change.

SEC. 309. MERCHANT MARINER MEDICAL CERTIFICATION REFORM.
is subject to forfeiture under section 511(a) of the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 (21 U.S.C. 881(a)); or
(3) conceal, or attempt or conspire to con- 
cel, half of all of such currency or other 
monetary instruments on the person of such in-
dividual or in any conveyance, article of lug-
gage, merchandise, or other container, or com-
partment of or aboard the covered vessel if that 
 vessel is outfitted for smuggling.''.
(b) COVERED VESSEL DEFINED.—Section 70503 
of title 46, United States Code, is amended by 
adding at the end the following:
'(c) COVERED VESSEL DEFINED.—In this sec-
tion the term 'covered vessel' means—
'(1) a vessel of the United States or a vessel su-
bject to the jurisdiction of the United States; or
'(2) any other vessel if the individual is a 
citizen of the United States or a resident alien 
of the United States...'
(c) PENALTIES.—Section 70506 of title 46, United 
States Code, is amended—
'(1) by striking (''Persons violating paragraph 
(1) of section 70503(a)'') and (2) by adding 
at the end the following:
'(d) PENALTY.—A person violating paragraph 
(2) or (3) of section 70503(a) shall be fined in ac-
cordance with section 3571 of title 18, imprisoned 
not more than 15 years, or both.''.
(d) SECURITIZATION.—Section 70507 of title 46, United 
States Code, is amended by striking ''section 70503'' and 
inserting ''section 70503 or 70506''.
(e) CLERICAL.—Section 70503 of title 46, 
United States Code, is amended by adding at 
the end the following:
'§70503. Prohibited acts'
'(2) the analysis for chapter 705 of title 46, 
United States Code, is further amended by strik-
ing the item relating to section 70503 and inser-
ting the following:
'70503. Prohibited acts'.
SEC. 315. EXAMINATIONS FOR MERCHANT MAR-
INER CREDENTIALS.
(a) DISCLOSURE.—
'(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 75 of title 46, United 
States Code, is further amended by adding at 
the end the following:
'Sec. 75750. Information on examinations; 
reporting.
'(a) DISCLOSURE NOT REQUIRED.—Notwith-
standing any other provision of law, the Sec-
retary is not required to publicly disclose—
'(1) a question from any examination for a 
merchant mariner credential;
'(2) the answer to such a question, including 
any correct or incorrect answer that may be pre-
sented with such question; and
'(3) any quality or characteristic of such a 
question, including—
'(A) the manner in which such question has 
been, is, or may be selected for an examination;
'(B) the frequency of such selection; and
'(C) the frequency that an examinee correctly 
or incorrectly answered such question.
'(b) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN QUESTIONS.— 
Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary 
may, for the purpose of preparing the general 
public for the examinations required for mer-
chant mariner credentials, release an examina-
tion question and answer that the Secretary has 
retired or is not presently on or part of an exam-
ination. In making such a decision, the Secretary determines is ap-
propriate for release.
'(c) EXAM REVIEW.—
'(1) In GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after 
the date of enactment of the Coast Guard 
Authorization Act of 2015, the Coast Guard Pub-
lic Affairs Office shall adopt and implement a 
program to review the content and format of 
medications required for merchant mariner credentials, composed of—
'(A) 1 subject matter expert from the Coast 
Guard;
'(B) representatives from training facilities 
and the maritime industry, of whom the 
Secretary determines is appropriate; and
'(C) 1 member of the public from the 
maritime industry.
'(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after 
the date of enactment of the Coast Guard 
Authorization Act of 2015, the Coast Guard Public 
Affairs Office shall adopt and implement a 
program to review the content and format of 
medications required for merchant mariner credentials, composed of—
'(A) 1 subject matter expert from the Coast 
Guard;
'(B) representatives from training facilities 
and the maritime industry, of whom the 
Secretary determines is appropriate; and
'(C) 1 member of the public from the 
maritime industry.
'(3) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after 
the date of enactment of the Coast Guard 
Authorization Act of 2015, the Coast Guard Public 
Affairs Office shall adopt and implement a 
program to review the content and format of 
medications required for merchant mariner credentials, composed of—
'(A) 1 subject matter expert from the Coast 
Guard;
'(B) representatives from training facilities 
and the maritime industry, of whom the 
Secretary determines is appropriate; and
'(C) 1 member of the public from the 
maritime industry.
'§ 75752. Books and records, balance sheets, 
and inspection and auditing;
'(ii) by striking ''the provision of title VI or VII 
of this Act'' and inserting ''this chapter''; and
'(iii) by striking '' Provided, That '' and all 
that follows through ''Commission''.
(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for 
chapter 75, title 46, United States Code, is 
amended by inserting the following:
'Sec. 75752. Books and records, balance sheets, 
and inspection and auditing.''
(d) REPEALS, TITLE 46, U.S.C.—Section 8103 of 
title 46, United States Code, is amended by 
adding at the end the following:
'§ 8103. Prohibited acts
'(2) by adding at the end the following:
'(a) DISCLOSURE.—A person violating paragraph 
(2) or (3) of section 8103 shall be fined in ac-
cordance with section 3571 of title 18, imprisoned 
not more than 15 years, or both.''.
(e) CLERICAL.—Section 8103 of title 46, 
United States Code, is amended by adding at 
the end the following:
'§ 8103. Prohibited acts
'(2) by adding at the end the following:
'(a) DISCLOSURE.—A person violating paragraph 
(2) or (3) of section 8103 shall be fined in ac-
cordance with section 3571 of title 18, imprisoned 
not more than 15 years, or both.''.
(f) CLERICAL.—Section 8103 of title 46, 
United States Code, is amended by adding at 
the end the following:
'§ 8103. Prohibited acts
'(2) by adding at the end the following:
'(a) DISCLOSURE.—A person violating paragraph 
(2) or (3) of section 8103 shall be fined in ac-
cordance with section 3571 of title 18, imprisoned 
not more than 15 years, or both.''.
(g) CLERICAL.—Section 8103 of title 46, 
United States Code, is amended by adding at 
the end the following:
'§ 8103. Prohibited acts
'(2) by adding at the end the following:
'(a) DISCLOSURE.—A person violating paragraph 
(2) or (3) of section 8103 shall be fined in ac-
cordance with section 3571 of title 18, imprisoned 
not more than 15 years, or both.''.
(h) CLERICAL.—Section 8103 of title 46, 
United States Code, is amended by adding at 
the end the following:
'§ 8103. Prohibited acts
'(2) by adding at the end the following:
'(a) DISCLOSURE.—A person violating paragraph 
(2) or (3) of section 8103 shall be fined in ac-
cordance with section 3571 of title 18, imprisoned 
not more than 15 years, or both.''.
(i) CLERICAL.—Section 8103 of title 46, 
United States Code, is amended by adding at 
the end the following:
'§ 8103. Prohibited acts
'(2) by adding at the end the following:
'(a) DISCLOSURE.—A person violating paragraph 
(2) or (3) of section 8103 shall be fined in ac-
cordance with section 3571 of title 18, imprisoned 
not more than 15 years, or both.''.
(j) CLERICAL.—Section 8103 of title 46, 
United States Code, is amended by adding at 
the end the following:
'§ 8103. Prohibited acts
'(2) by adding at the end the following:
'(a) DISCLOSURE.—A person violating paragraph 
(2) or (3) of section 8103 shall be fined in ac-
cordance with section 3571 of title 18, imprisoned 
not more than 15 years, or both.''.
SEC. 314. MARITIME DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT.
(a) PROHIBITIONS.—
'(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, and once every two years thereafter, the Secretary shall commission a working group to review the
content and format of the examinations required for merchant mariner credentials, and the
Secretary shall provide a progress report to the
appropriate congressional committees on the review.
(b) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary is not required to publicly disclose—
'(1) a question from any examination for a merchant mariner credential;
'(2) the answer to such a question, including any correct or incorrect answer that may be presented with such question; and
'(3) any quality or characteristic of such a question, including—
'(A) the manner in which such question has been, is, or may be selected for an examination;
'(B) the frequency of such selection; and
'(C) the frequency that an examinee correctly or incorrectly answered such question.''
(c) EXAM REVIEW.—
'(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, the Coast Guard Public Affairs Office shall adopt and implement a program to review the content and format of the examinations required for merchant mariner credentials, composed of—
“(d) MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘merchant mariner credential’ means a merchant seaman license, certificate, or document that the Secretary is authorized to issue pursuant to this title.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“716. Examinations for merchant mariner credentials.”

(b) EXAMINATIONS FOR MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIAL DETERMINATION.—In this section, the term ‘merchant mariner credential examination topics’ has the meaning that term has in section 7510.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such chapter is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“716. Examinations for merchant mariner credentials.”

(c) DISCLOSURE TO CONGRESS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize the withholding of information from an appropriate inspector general, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, or the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of Representatives.

SEC. 216. HIGHER VOLUME PORT AREA REGULATORY DEFINITION CHANGE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 710 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–281; 124 Stat. 2986) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) HIGHER VOLUME PORTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the requirements of subparts D, F, and G of part 155 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, that apply to a foreign port area for the Strait of Juan de Fuca at Port Angeles, Washington (including any water area within 50 nautical miles seaward), to and including Puget Sound, by every 5 years to the same extent, to the Strait of Juan de Fuca at Cape Flattery, Washington (including any water area within 50 nautical miles seaward), to and including Puget Sound.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended by striking “the modification of the higher volume port area definition required by subsection (a),” and inserting “the higher volume port requirements made applicable under subsection (a).”

SEC. 217. RECOGNITION OF PORT SECURITY ASSESSMENTS CONDUCTED BY OTHER ENTITIES.

Section 70108 of title 46, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(f) RECOGNITION OF ASSESSMENT CONDUCTED BY OTHER ENTITIES.—

“(1) CERTIFICATION AND TREATMENT OF ASSESSMENTS.—For the purposes of this section and section 70109, the Secretary may treat an assessment that a foreign government (including, for the purposes of this subsection, an entity of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or an organization approved by the Secretary for purposes of this paragraph), or international organization has conducted as an assessment that the Secretary has conducted for the purposes of subsection (a), provided that the Secretary certifies that the foreign government or international organization has—

“(A) conducted the assessment in accordance with subsection (b); and

“(B) provided the Secretary with sufficient information pertaining to its assessment (including, but not limited to, information on the outcome of the assessment).

“(2) AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT.—For the purposes of this section and section 70109, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may enter into an agreement with a foreign government (including, for the purposes of this subsection, an entity of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or an organization approved by the Secretary for purposes of this paragraph), or international organization, under which parties to the agreement—

“(A) conduct an assessment, required under subsection (a);

“(B) share information pertaining to such assessment (including, but not limited to, information on the outcome of the assessment); or

“(C) both.

“(3) LIMITATIONS.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to—

“(A) require the Secretary to recognize an assessment that a foreign government or an international organization has conducted; or

“(B) limit the discretion or ability of the Secretary to conduct an assessment under this section.

“(4) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days before entering into an agreement or arrangement with a foreign government under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate of the proposed terms of such agreement or arrangement.

“(5) VESSEL SAFETY.—

“(A) The Secretary, in consultation with the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation of the Senate a report that provides an analysis of the adequacy of the requirements under subsection (b) in maintaining the safety of the fishing vessels and fish tender vessels which are described in subsection (c)(2) and which comply with the requirements of subsection (e).”

(2) The requirements referred to in subsection (e) include requirements for—

“(A) vessel construction;

“(B) a vessel stability test;

“(C) vessel staffing and loading instructions;

“(D) an assigned vessel loading mark;

“(E) a vessel condition survey at least twice in 5 years, not to exceed 3 years between surveys; and

“(F) maintenance of records to demonstrate compliance with the program, and the availability of such records for inspection and audit.

“(G) such other aspects of vessel safety as the Secretary considers appropriate.”

(g) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a report that provides an analysis of the adequacy of the requirements under subsection (b) in maintaining the safety of the fishing vessels and fish tender vessels which are described in subsection (c)(2) and which comply with the requirements of subsection (e).

“(2) By redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

“(3) is reviewed and updated as necessary.

“(3) The alternative safety compliance program established under this subsection shall include requirements for—

“(A) vessel construction;

“(B) a vessel stability test;

“(C) vessel staffing and loading instructions;

“(D) an assigned vessel loading mark;

“(E) a vessel condition survey at least twice in 5 years, not to exceed 3 years between surveys; and

“(F) maintenance of records to demonstrate compliance with the program, and the availability of such records for inspection and audit.

“(G) such other aspects of vessel safety as the Secretary considers appropriate.”

(G) The report shall include—

“(A) national and regional trends that can be identified with respect to rates of marine casualties, human injuries, and deaths aboard or involving fishing vessels greater than 79 feet in length that operate beyond the 3-nautical-mile boundary;

“(B) a comparison of United States regulations for classification of fishing vessels to those established by other countries, including the vessels set out in paragraph (1) of this section; and

“(C) the additional costs imposed on vessel owners as a result of the requirement in section
4503(a) of title 46, United States Code, and how the those costs vary in relation to vessel size and from region to region;

(D) savings that result from the application of the requirements in section 4503(a) of title 46, United States Code, including reductions in insurance rates or reduction in the number of fishing vessels or fish tender vessels lost to major safety deficiencies nationally and regionally;

(E) a national and regional comparison of the additional costs and safety benefits associated with fishing vessels or fish tender vessels that are built and maintained to class through a classification society to the additional costs and safety benefits associated with fishing vessels or fish tender vessels that are built to standards equivalent to classification society construction standards and maintained to standards equivalent to classification society standards with verification by independent surveyors; and

(F) the availability, production and availability of qualified shipyards, nationally and regionally, resulting from the application of the requirement in section 4503(a) of title 46, United States Code.

(2) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In preparing the report under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall—

(A) consult with owners and operators of fishing vessels or fish tender vessels, classification societies, shipyards, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the National Institutes of Health, the National Transportation Safety Board, the Coast Guard, academicians, marine architects, and marine safety nongovernmental organizations; and

(B) include data from the Coast Guard including data collected from enforcement actions, boardings, investigations of marine casualties, and serious marine incidents.

(3) TREATMENT OF DATA.—In preparing the report under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General shall—

(A) segregate data regionally for each of the regions managed by the regional fishery management councils established under section 302 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852), the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission; and

(B) include qualitative data on the types of fishing vessels or fish tender vessels included in the report.

SEC. 319. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON OIL POLLUTION RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 700(a)(3) of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 276(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Minerals Management Service” and inserting “Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management,”; and

(2) by inserting “(1) determined by appraisal; and

(3) subject to the approval of the Commandant.”

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 7001 of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (33 U.S.C. 2761) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Department of Transportation” and inserting “department in which the Coast Guard is operating’’;

(2) in subsection (c)(3)(A), by striking “1989” and inserting “2010”.

SEC. 320. INTERNATIONAL PORT AND FACILITY INSPECTION COORDINATION.

Section 825(a) of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010 (6 U.S.C. 545 note; Public Law 111–286) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(1) by striking “the department in which the Coast Guard is operating” and inserting “International Port and Facility Inspection Coordination’’; and

(2) by striking “the Coast Guard” and inserting “the assessments are coordinated between the Coast Guard and Customs and Border Protection’’.

TITLE IV—FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

SEC. 401. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§308. Authorization of appropriations.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Federal Maritime Commission $24,700,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017 for the activities of the Commission authorized under this chapter and subtitle IV.’’;

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 3 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“308. Authorization of appropriations.’’

SEC. 402. DUTIES OF THE CHAIRMAN.

Section 301(c)(3)(A) of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in clause (ii) by striking “units, but only after consultation with the other Commissioners,” and inserting “units (with such appointments subject to the approval of the Commission),”;

(2) in clause (iv) by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in clause (v) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) prepare and submit to the President and the Congress requests for appropriations for the Commission (with such appointments subject to the approval of the Commission).”

SEC. 403. PROHIBITION ON AWARDS.

Section 307 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “The Federal Maritime Commission” and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Maritime Commission may not make an award of assistance under section 502(a)(1) of the Ocean Act of 1988 (46 U.S.C. 70121) to persons and regions unless such regions have been selected by the Commission.

(b) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Federal Maritime Commission shall make no award of assistance under section 502(a)(1) of the Ocean Act of 1988 (46 U.S.C. 70121) until the Commission has—

(1) reviewed the conditions in connection with a conveyance under this section that are otherwise made available to it to a non-Federal entity;

(2) determined by appraisal; and

(3) subject to the conditions required by this section; and

(C) to subject any other term or condition that the Commandant considers appropriate and reasonable to protect the interests of the United States.

(2) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The fair market value of the covered property shall be—

(A) determined by the Commandant;

(B) approved by the Commandant;

(C) deposited in the Coast Guard Housing Fund established under section 687 of title 14, United States Code.

(g) COVERED PROPERTY DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered property” means the approximately 32 acres of real property (including all improvements located on the property) that are—

(1) located in Point Reyes Station in the County of Marin, California;

(2) under the administrative control of the Coast Guard; and


(f) EXPIRATION.—The authority to convey the covered property under this section shall expire 20 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 502. CONVEYANCE OF COAST GUARD PROPERTY IN POINT REYES STATION, CALIFORNIA.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard may convey to the Tanana Chiefs’ Conference all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the covered property, upon payment to the United States of the fair market value of the covered property.

(b) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the covered property shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Commandant.

(c) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The fair market value of the covered property shall be—

(1) determined by appraisal; and

(2) subject to the approval of the Commandant.

(d) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The responsibility for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental documentation associated with a conveyance under this section shall be determined by the Commandant and the purchaser.

(e) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Commandant may require such additional terms and conditions in connection with a conveyance under this section as the Commandant considers appropriate and reasonable to protect the interests of the United States.

(f) DEPOSIT OF PROCEEDS.—Any proceeds received by the United States from a conveyance under this section shall be deposited in the Coast Guard Housing Fund established under section 687 of title 14, United States Code.

(g) COVERED PROPERTY DEFINED.—In general.—In this section, the term “covered property” means the approximately 3.25 acres of real property (including all improvements located on the property) that are—

(A) described as (in Tok, Alaska); and

(B) under the administrative control of the Coast Guard.

(c) described in paragraph (2).

(1) DESCRIPTION.—The property described in this paragraph is the following:

(A) Lots 11, 12 and 13, block “G”, Second Addition to Hartsell Subdivision, Section 20, Town 15, Range 13 North, Copper River Meridian, Alaska as appears by Plat No. 72–39 filed in the Office of the Recorder for the Fairbanks Recording District of Alaska, bearing seal dated September 21, 1927, and located approximately 1.25 acres and commonly known as 2-PLEX—Jackie Circle, Units A and B.
84.88 acres. Meridian, Alaska, Tract 43, the plat of which was Officially Filed on January 20, 2004, aggregating 10,056 acres. (b) AUTHORITY.—The authority to convey the covered property under this section shall expire on the date that is 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle C—Pribilof Islands

SEC. 321. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the "Pribilof Island Transition Completion Act of 2015".

SEC. 322. TRANSFER AND DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY.

(a) TRANSFER.—To further accomplish the settlement of land claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), the Secretary of Commerce shall, subject to paragraph (2), and notwithstanding section 103(a) of the Pribilof Islands Transition Act (16 U.S.C. 1165) andinserting "(section 204(a) of the Fur Seal Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 1165(a))", and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(5) NOTICE OF CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall promptly publish and submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate notice that the certification described in paragraph (2) has been made.", and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "makes the certification described in subsection (b)(2)" and inserting "publishes the notice of certification required by subsection (b)(5)"; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking "Section 205" and inserting "Sections (a), (b), (c), and (d) of section 205";

(4) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(5) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

"(e) NOTIFICATIONS.—(1) Not later than 30 days after the Secretary makes a determination under subsection (f) that land on St. Paul Island, Alaska, not specified for transfer in the document entitled 'Transfer of the Pribilof Islands: Descriptions, Terms and Conditions' or not specified for transfer in the document entitled 'Transfer of the Pribilof Islands: Descriptions, Terms and Conditions' or section 522 of the Pribilof Island Transition Completion Act of 2015 is in excess of the needs of the Federal Government, the Secretary shall notify the Alaska native village corporation for St. Paul Island of the determination.

(2) ELECTION TO RECEIVE.—Not later than 60 days after the date of receipt of the notification of the Secretary under subsection (a), the Alaska native village corporation for St. Paul Island shall either make the Secretary in writing whether the Alaska native village corporation elects to receive all right, title, and interest in the land or a portion of the land.

(3) TRANSFER.—If the Alaska native village corporation for St. Paul Island elects to receive all right, title, and interest in the land, the Secretary may dispose of the land in accordance with other applicable law.

(f) DETERMINATION.—(1) In general.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this subsection and not less than once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall determine whether property located on St. Paul Island and not transferred to the Natives of the Pribilof Islands is in excess of the smallest practicable tract enclosing land—

SEC. 524. REDUNDANT CAPABILITY.

(a) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), section 631 of title 14, United States Code, as amended by this Act, shall not be construed to prohibit any transfer or conveyance of lands under this subtitle or any actions that involve the dismantling or disposal of any property or infrastructure or the former LORAN system that are associated with the transfer or conveyance of lands under section 522.

(b) REDUNDANT CAPABILITY.—If, within the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating determines that a facility on Tract 43, if transferred under this subtitle, is subsequently required to provide a positioning, navigation, and timing system to provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted, the Secretary may—

(1) operate, maintain, keep, locate, inspect, repair, and replace such facility; and

(2) in carrying out the activities described in paragraph (1), enter, at any time, the facility without notice to the extent that it is not possible to provide advance notice, for as long as such facility is needed to provide such capability.

Subtitle C—Conveyance of Coast Guard Property at Point Spencer, Alaska

SEC. 321. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) Major shipping traffic is increasing through the Bering Strait, the Bering and Chukchi Seas, and the Arctic Ocean and will continue to increase whether or not development of the Outer Continental Shelf of the United States is undertaken in the future, and will increase further if such Outer Continental Shelf development is undertaken.

(2) There is a compelling national, State, Alaska Native, and private sector need for permanent infrastructure development and for a presence in the Arctic region of Alaska by appropriate agencies of the Federal Government, particularly in proximity to the Bering Strait, to support and facilitate national and international law enforcement, shipping safety, economic development, oil spill prevention and response, protection of Alaska Native archaeological and cultural resources, port of call, and Arctic research and scientific activities.

(3) The United States owns a parcel of land, known as Point Spencer, located between the Bering Strait and Port Clarence and adjacent to some of the potential deepwater port sites on the west coast of Alaska in the Arctic.

(4) Prudent and effective use of Point Spencer may be best achieved through marshaling the energy, resources, and leadership of the public and private sectors.

(5) It is in the national interest to develop infrastructure at Point Spencer that would aid the
SEC. 532. DEFINITIONS.
In this subtitle:
(1) ARCTIC.—The term “Arctic” has the meaning given that term in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111).
(2) BSCN.—The term “BSCN” means the Bering Strait Native Corporation authorized under section 112 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1606).
(3) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the Port Management Coordination Council established under section 541.
(4) PLAN.—The term “Plan” means the Port Management Coordination Plan developed under section 541.
(5) POINT SPENCER.—The term “Point Spencer” means the land known as “Point Spencer” located in Townships 2, 3, and 4 South, Range 40 West, Kateel River Meridian, Alaska, between the Bering Strait and Point Clarence and withdrawn by Public Land Order 2650 (published in the Federal Register on April 12, 1962).
(6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.
(7) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Alaska.
(8) TRACT.—The term “Tract” or “Tracts” means any of Tract 1, Tract 2, Tract 3, Tract 4, Tract 5, or Tract 6, as appropriate, or any portion of such Tract or Tracts.
(9) TRACTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.—The terms “Tract 1”, “Tract 2”, “Tract 3”, “Tract 4”, “Tract 5”, and “Tract 6” each mean the land generally depicted as Tract 1, Tract 2, Tract 3, Tract 4, Tract 5, or Tract 6, respectively, on the map entitled the “Point Spencer Land Retention Map”, dated January 2015, and on file with the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of the Interior.
SEC. 533. AUTHORITY TO CONVEY LAND IN POINT SPENCER.
(a) AUTHORITY TO CONVEY TRACTS 1, 3, and 4.—Within 1 year after the Secretary notifies the Secretary of the Interior that the Coast Guard no longer needs to retain jurisdiction of Tract 1, Tract 3, or Tract 4 and subject to section 534, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey to BSCN or the State, subject to valid existing rights, interests, and easements in and to the surface and subsurface estate of such Tract in accordance with subsection (d).
(b) AUTHORITY TO CONVEY TRACTS 2 and 5.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section and subject to section 534, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey, subject to valid existing rights, interests, and easements in and to the United States in and to the surface and subsurface estates of Tract 2 and Tract 5 in accordance with subsection (d).
(c) OPTION OF OFFER TO CONVEY TRACT 6.—Within one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and subject to sections 534 and 535, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey, subject to valid existing rights, title, and interest of the United States in and to the surface and subsurface estates of Tract 6 in accordance with subsection (e).
(d) DETERMINATION AND OFFER.—
(1) DETERMINATION.—If the Secretary makes the determination described in subsection (c) and subject to section 534, the Secretary of the Interior shall offer Tract 1, Tract 3, or Tract 4 for conveyance to BSCN under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1610 et seq.).
(2) OFFER TO BSCN.—
(A) ACCEPTANCE BY BSCN.—If BSCN accepts to accept an offer of conveyance of a Tract under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior shall consider such Tract 6 as within BSCN’s entitlement under section 14(h)(6) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(h)(6)) and shall convey such Tract to BSCN.
(B) DECLINE BY BSCN.—If BSCN declines to accept an offer of conveyance of a Tract under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior shall offer such Tract for conveyance to the State under the Act of July 7, 1958 (commonly known as the “Alaska Statehood Act”) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21; Public Law 85–508) and shall convey such Tract to the State.
(3) OFFER TO STATE.—
(A) ACCEPTANCE BY STATE.—If the State chooses to accept an offer of conveyance of a Tract under paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary of the Interior shall consider such Tract as within the State’s entitlement under the Act of July 7, 1958 (commonly known as the “Alaska Statehood Act”) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21; Public Law 85–508) and shall convey such Tract to the State.
(B) DECLINE BY STATE.—If the State declines to accept an offer of conveyance of a Tract offered under paragraph (2)(B), such Tract shall be disposed of pursuant to applicable public land laws.
(e) ORDER OF OFFER TO CONVEY TRACT 6.—
(1) OFFER.—Subject to section 534, the Secretary of the Interior shall offer Tract 6 for conveyance to the State under the Act of July 7, 1958 (commonly known as the “Alaska Statehood Act”) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21; Public Law 85–508) and shall convey such Tract to the State.
(f) USE BY COAST GUARD.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.
(g) USE BY STATE.—For any Tract conveyed to BSCN under this subtitle, BSCN shall provide the State, if requested and pursuant to negotiated terms with the State, an easement granting BSCN, at no cost to the State:
(1) use of all existing and future landing pads, airstrips, runways, and taxiways that are located on such Tract; and
(2) a right to access such landing pads, airstrips, runways, and taxiways.
(h) RIGHT OF ACCESS OR RIGHT OF WAY.—If the State requests a right of access or right of way for a road from the airstrip to the southern tip of Point Spencer, the right of access or right of way shall be determined by the State, in consultation with the Secretary and BSCN, so that such right of access or right of way may be used if—
(1) the land conveyed to the State under this subtitle consists of tracts, strips, runways, and taxiways.
(i) PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENTS.—No public access easements may be reserved to the United States under section 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1616(b)) with respect to the land conveyed under this subtitle.
SEC. 536. RELATIONSHIP TO PUBLIC LAND ORDER 2650.
(4) TRACTS NOT CONVEYED.—Any Tract that is not conveyed under this subtitle shall remain withdrawn pursuant to Public Land Order 2650 (published in the Federal Register on April 12, 1962).
(b) TRACTS CONVEYED.—For any Tract conveyed under this subtitle, Public Land Order 2650 shall automatically terminate upon issuance of a conveyance document issued pursuant to this subtitle for such Tract.
SEC. 537. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES.
Conveyance of any Tract under this subtitle shall not affect investigations, criminal jurisdiction, and responsibilities regarding theft or vandalism of archeological and cultural resources located in or on such Tract that took place prior to conveyance under this subtitle.
SEC. 539. CHARGEABILITY FOR LAND CONVEYED.

(a) CONVEYANCES TO ALASKA.—The Secretary of the Interior shall charge any conveyance of land conveyed to the State of Alaska pursuant to this subtitle against the State's remaining entitlement under section 14(h)(8) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(h)(8)).

(b) CONVEYANCES TO BSNC.—The Secretary of the Interior shall charge any conveyance of land conveyed to the Bering Straight Native Corporation (BSNC) pursuant to this subtitle against BSNC's remaining entitlement under section 14(h)(8) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613(h)(8)).

(c) DUTIES.—The duties of the Council are as follows:

(1) To develop a Port Management Coordination Plan to help coordinate infrastructure developments at the Port of Point Spencer, that includes plans for—
(A) construction;
(B) funding eligibility;
(C) land use planning and development; and
(D) public interest use and access, emergency preparedness, law enforcement, protection of Alaska Native archaeological and cultural resources, and other matters that are necessary for public and private entities to function in proximity together in a remote location.

(2) Update the Plan for the first 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter.

(3) Facilitate coordination among BSNC, the State, and the Coast Guard, on the development and use of the land and coastline as such development relates to activities at the Port of Point Spencer.

(4) Assess the need, benefits, efficacy, and desirability of establishing in the future a port authority at Point Spencer under State law and act upon that assessment, as appropriate, including taking steps to prevent the formation of such a port authority.

(d) PLAN.—In addition to the requirements under subsection (c)(1) to the greatest extent practicable, the Plan developed by the Council shall facilitate and support the statutory missions and duties of the Coast Guard and operations of the Coast Guard in the Arctic.

(e) COSTS.—Conveyance costs and management costs for airstrips, runways, and taxiways at Point Spencer shall be determined pursuant to provisions of the Plan, as negotiated by the Council.

SEC. 540. REDUNDANT CAPABILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), section 1004 of the Oil Pollution Act of 2001 (46 U.S.C. 10504) shall be applied so that—

(1) the Coast Guard or the Commandant of the Coast Guard is authorized to provide redundant capability—
(A) for National Maritime Heritage Grants, in paragraph (1) of section 610, by—
(B) for the preservation and presentation to the public of maritime heritage property of the Maritime Administration;

(2) in the event GPS signals are disrupted, the Secretary may, for as long as such facility is needed to provide redundant capability, enter, at any time, the facility described in paragraph (1), enter, at any time, the facility described in paragraph (1), and

(b) CONTINUATION OF RESPONSIBILITY.—Of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating determines, within the 5-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, that a facility on any of Tract 1, Tract 3, or Tract 4 that is transferred under this subtitle is subsequently required to provide a positioning, navigation, and timing system to provide redundant capability in the event GPS signals are disrupted, the Secretary may, for as long as such facility is needed to provide redundant capability—

(1) operate, maintain, keep, locate, inspect, repair, and replace such facility; and

(2) in carrying out the activities described in paragraph (1), enter, at any time, the facility without notice to the extent that it is not possible to provide, maintain, or inspect the facility.

SEC. 541. PORT COORDINATION COUNCIL FOR POINT SPENCER.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Port Coordination Council for the Port of Point Spencer.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Council shall consist of a representative appointed by each of the following:

(1) The State.

(2) BSNC.

(3) The Commandant of the Coast Guard.

(4) The Bureau of Land Management.

(5) The Secretary of the Interior.

(6) A representative appointed by each of the following representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate:

(1) in section 610, by—

(A) striking the section enumerator and heading and inserting the following:

"SEC. 610. SAFE VESSEL OPERATION IN THE GREAT LAKES,"

(2) striking the existing boundaries and any future expanded boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary under paragraphs (2) and (3) and adding—

(A) land use planning and development, fishing, and tourism.

SEC. 602. SAFE VESSEL OPERATION IN THE GREAT LAKES.

The Houndt Cable Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–281) is amended by—

(1) in section 610, by—

(A) striking the section enumerator and heading and inserting the following:

"SEC. 610. SAFE VESSEL OPERATION IN THE GREAT LAKES,"

(B) striking "existing boundaries and any future expanded boundaries of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary under paragraphs (2) and (3) and adding—

"wrecks or maritime heritage in the Great Lakes;" and

(C) inserting before the period at the end the following: ", unless the designation documents contained in the report detailing the activities of the Federal Government to carry out polar icebreaking missions. The assessment shall—

(1) describe current and emerging requirements for the Coast Guard's polar icebreaking capabilities, taking into account the rapidly changing ice cover in the Arctic environment, national security considerations, and expanding national and international activities in the Arctic, including marine transportation, energy development, fishing, and tourism;"
(2) identify potential design, procurement, leasing, service contracts, crewing, and technology options that could minimize life-cycle costs and optimize efficiency and reliability of Coast Guard icebreaker operations in the Arctic and Antarctic; and

(3) examine—

(A) Coast Guard estimates of the procurement and operating costs of new, modern, cost-effective icebreakers or of Polar icebreakers acquired through previously executed Federal capital expenditures.

(B) the incremental cost to augment the design of such an icebreaker for multiuse capabilities for scientific missions.

(C) the potential to offset such incremental cost through cost-sharing agreements with other Federal departments and agencies; and

(D) United States polar icebreaking capability in comparison with that of other Arctic nations, and with nations that conduct research in the Arctic.

(b) INCLUSION OF COSTS.—For purposes of subsection (a), the assessment shall include costs incurred by the Federal Government for—

(1) the lease or operation and maintenance of the vessel or vessels concerned;

(2) disposal of oil spills at the end of the useful life of the vessels;

(3) retirement and other benefits for Federal employees who operate such vessels; and

(4) interest payments assumed to be incurred for Federal capital expenditures.

(c) ASSUMPTIONS.—For purposes of comparing the costs of such alternatives, the Academy shall assume that—

(1) each vessel under consideration is—

(A) capable of breaking out McMurdo Station and conducting Coast Guard missions in the Antarctic, and in the United States territory in the Arctic (as that term is defined in section 112 of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984 (15 U.S.C. 4111)); and

(B) operated for a period of 30 years;

(2) the acquisition of services and the operation of each vessel begins on the same date; and

(3) the periods for conducting Coast Guard missions in the Arctic are of equal lengths.

(d) USE OF INFORMATION.—In formulating cost estimates, the National Academy of Sciences may utilize information from other Coast Guard reports, assessments, or analyses regarding existing Coast Guard Polar class icebreakers for cost estimates for the acquisition of a polar icebreaker for the Federal Government.

SEC. 605. COASTWISE ENDORSEMENTS.

(a) “ELETTA III”.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 12112 and 12132 of title 46, United States Code, and subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may issue a certificate of documentation without the coastwise endorsement for the vessel M/V Eletta III (United States official number 694607).

(2) LIMITATION ON OPERATION.—Coastwise trade authorized under a certificate of documentation issued under paragraph (1) shall be limited to the carriage of passengers and equipment in association with the operation of the vessel in the Puget Sound region to support marine and maritime science education.

(b) TERMINATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF CERTIFICATE.—A certificate of documentation issued under paragraph (1) shall expire on the earlier of—

(A) the date of the sale of the vessel or the entity that owns the vessel;

(B) the date upon which the vessels or any material parts or alterations are made to the vessel outside of the United States; or

(C) the date the vessel is no longer operated as a vessel in the Puget Sound region to support the marine and maritime science education.

(b) “F/V RONDYS”.—Notwithstanding section 13332 of title 46, United States Code, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for the vessel F/V Rondys (O.N. 291085).

SEC. 606. INTERNATIONAL ICE PATROL.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that describes the current operations to perform the International Ice Patrol mission and on alternatives for carrying out that mission, including satellite surveillance technology.

(b) ALTERNATIVES.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include whether an alternative—

(1) provides timely data on ice conditions with the highest possible resolution and accuracy;

(2) is able to operate in all weather conditions or any time of day; and

(3) is more cost effective than the cost of current operations.

SEC. 607. ASSESSMENT OF OIL SPILL RESPONSE AND CLEANUP ACTIVITIES IN THE GREAT LAKES.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the head of any other agency the Commandant determines appropriate, shall conduct an assessment of the effectiveness of oil spill response activities specific to the Great Lakes. Such assessment shall include—

(1) an evaluation of new research into oil spill impacts in fresh water under a wide range of conditions; and

(2) an evaluation of oil spill prevention and cleanup contingency plans, in order to improve understanding of oil spill impacts in the Great Lakes and foster innovative improvements to safety technologies and environmental protection systems.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the Congress the results of the assessment required by subsection (a).

SEC. 608. REPORT ON STATUS OF TECHNOLOGY DETECTING PASSENGERS WHO HAVE FALLEN OVERBOARD.

Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that—

(1) describes the status of technology for immediately detecting passengers who have fallen overboard;

(2) includes a recommendation to cruise lines on the feasibility of implementing technology that immediately detects passengers who have fallen overboard, factoring in cost and the risk of false positives;

(3) includes data collected from cruise lines on the status of the integration of the technology described in paragraph (2) on cruise ships, including—

(A) the number of cruise ships that have the technology to capture images of passengers who have fallen overboard; and

(B) the number of cruise lines that have tested technology that can detect passengers who have fallen overboard; and

(4) includes information on any other available technologies that cruise ships could integrate to assist in facilitating the search and rescue of a passenger who has fallen overboard.

SEC. 609. VENUE.

Section 311(d) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861(d)) is amended by striking the section heading and inserting “In the case of Guam or any possession of the United States in the Pacific Ocean, the appropriate court is the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii. Except that in the case of Guam and Wake Island, the appropriate court is the United States District Court for the District of Guam, and in the case of the Northern Mariana Islands, the appropriate court is the United States District Court for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands.”.

SEC. 610. DISPOSITION OF INFRASTRUCTURE RELATED TO E–LORAN.

(a) DISPOSITION OF INFRASTRUCTURE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 14, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§681. Disposition of infrastructure related to E–LORAN

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not carry out activities related to the dismantling or disposal of infrastructure comprising the LORAN-C system until the date on which the Secretary provides to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate notice of a determination that there is no longer a Federal need for the LORAN-C system and that it is not required to provide a positioning, navigation, and timing system to provide redundant capability in the event the Global Positioning System signals are disrupted.

“(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to activities necessary for the safety of human life.

(c) DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—On any date after the notification is made under subsection (a), the Administrator of General Services, acting on behalf of the Secretary, may, notwithstanding any other provision of law, sell any real and personal property under the administrative control of the Coast Guard and used for the LORAN-C system, subject to such terms and conditions that the Secretary believes to be necessary to protect government interests and program requirements of the Coast Guard.

“(2) AVAILABILITY OF PROCEEDS.—

“(A) AVAILABILITY OF PROCEEDS.—The proceeds of such sales, less the costs of sale incurred by the General Services Administration, shall be deposited as offsetting collections into the Coast Guard ‘Environmental Compliance and Restoration’ account and, without further appropriation, shall be available until expended for—

“(i) environmental compliance and restoration purposes associated with the LORAN-C system;

“(ii) the costs of securing and maintaining equipment that may be used as a backup to the Global Positioning System or to meet any other Federal navigation requirement;

“(iii) the demolition of improvements on such real property; and

“(iv) the costs associated with the sale of such real and personal property, including due diligence requirements, necessary environmental remediation, and reimbursement of expenses incurred by the General Services Administration.

“(B) OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.—In the case of Guam and Wake Island, the costs associated with the sale of such real and personal property, including due diligence requirements, necessary environmental remediation, and reimbursement of expenses incurred by the General Services Administration.

“(C) DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY.—The Secretary may not dispose of infrastructure comprising the LORAN-C system until the date on which the Secretary provides to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Environment and Public Works notice of a determination that there is no longer a Federal need for the LORAN-C system, subject to such terms and conditions that the Secretary believes to be necessary to protect government interests and program requirements of the Coast Guard.

“(D) OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES.—In the case of Guam and Wake Island, the costs associated with the sale of such real and personal property, including due diligence requirements, necessary environmental remediation, and reimbursement of expenses incurred by the General Services Administration.

“SEC. 620. LEGISLATIVE HISTORY.

This section was enacted by the Legislative History Act of 1995 (119 Stat. 1998) (as added by section 620 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-53)).
important legislation that will assist the Coast Guard in fulfilling its missions. I thank the committee ranking members, Mr. DeFazio and Mr. Garamendi, for their hard work and their efforts, and Chairwoman Read and her leadership. Our collective interests to support the Coast Guard and its many missions allowed for the development of the bill before us today.

The members of the Coast Guard do a tremendous job for our Nation. Coast Guard servicemembers place their lives on the line and at risk on a daily basis to save those in danger, ensure the safety and security of our ports and waterways, and protect our environmental resources. Passing H.R. 4188 will help rebuild and strengthen the Coast Guard. It will also demonstrate the strong support Congress has for the men and women of the Coast Guard and the deep appreciation we have for those sacrifices they make for our Nation.

I thank John Rayfield, who is on my staff, and the Democrats’ staff for what they have done on this bill. I thank Reyna Hernandez McGrail for the work that she put in, and I thank Commander Burdian, with the Coast Guard, who liaised with us on a daily basis to get this done.

I urge all Members to support H.R. 4188 as amended by the Senate.

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

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

I am pleased to be here again, at the beginning of another year, to rise to join Chairman Hunter in strong support of legislation to authorize funding for the United States Coast Guard and to advance new policy initiatives to strengthen the prospects for the U.S. flag and the U.S. maritime industry. H.R. 4188, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, is very carefully crafted bipartisan-bicameral legislation that has been developed over the course of far too long. It should have and could have been done last year, but here we are.

I thank the Senate. I guess I should be a little more kind to the other House.

Several months of negotiation with Members of the Senate have finally concluded. This bill is deserving of robust support from Members on both sides of the aisle, and I urge its quick passage by the House today so it can be enrolled and sent to the President for his signature.

I thank Chairman Hunter for his leadership and cooperative spirit in working with me and the other Democrats to address our interests and concerns. The willingness of Chairman Hunter and of his outstanding staff on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee to collaborate and work with the minority is very, very much appreciated.

Now, the bill is not perfect. In fact, I haven’t seen one in the years I have been here, and that has been a few years now; but that is the case with virtually every piece of bipartisan legislation that has been passed by Congress. On balance, the benefits of this bill clearly outweigh any detrimental aspects.

I am pleased this legislation will provide an increased authorized funding level for the Coast Guard for the next 2 fiscal years. Our Coast Guard has suffered for the past 3 to 4 fiscal years due to insufficient budgets. The authorized funding levels in this legislation, along with the increased appropriation in the fiscal year 2016 omnibus bill, are a marked improvement.

The importance of budget stability to the men and women of the Coast Guard cannot be overstated. Coastguardmen and -women are pressed daily to meet the arduous demands of the service’s 11 statutory missions which scatter them over seven different oceans, seas, and every ocean. In fact, last week, I saw three of our cutters at the dock in Bahrain working to protect our interests in the Persian Gulf.

The last thing our Coast Guard needs is face recurrent budget uncertainties, a circumstance which leaves the service’s leadership unable to know exactly what resources and capabilities they have available to perform vital national security functions, such as addressing port and harbor security, illegal drug and migrant interdiction, search and rescue, law enforcement and environmental response actions, and several other important activities.

This legislation will also strengthen our national security through provisions that enhance policies that govern foreign port security assignments. Others that bolster the coordination of international port inspections, conducted by the Coast Guard and our foreign partners, will help ensure that critical maritime infrastructure does not become a liability for national security.

Additionally, language included in the bill will strengthen the Coast Guard’s maritime drug enforcement authority, which should improve the Federal Government’s activities in the Western Hemisphere to combat illegal drug trafficking, which has had a substantial destabilizing effect on several nations across the region.

I am also very pleased that this legislation continues to move the ball down the field in an effort to strengthen and to recapitalize a new fleet of polar class heavy icebreakers for the Coast Guard.

It is clear that we are witnessing the opening of the Arctic to maritime commerce. We have got to do something, and this bill puts us on the road to doing that. In this most challenging of maritime environments, it is vital that the service has the icebreaking capabilities it will need to operate safely and effectively; so we will figure out whether the Polar Sea can actually be
refitted. Additionally, this legislation authorizes funding to allow the Coast Guard to maintain progress in finalizing requirements and in initiating preliminary designs for a new heavy icebreaker.

In moving to an end here, I am pleased that the legislation includes language to continue to preserve the remaining infrastructure at the former LORAN-C stations until such time that the administration makes a final decision on whether or not to build an enhanced LORAN-C or E-LORAN infrastructure as a reliable land-based, low-frequency backup navigation and timing signal for the global positioning satellite signal, which, I think, most of us know is the single point of failure for most of the American economy and for a good deal of our military. The GPS signal is fairly easy to corrupt, to degrade, or to otherwise disrupt. For this reason, we need to think seriously about a backup, and this bill sets us on the right path.

This administration needs to make a decision on this, and it should make it now. The language in this legislation ensures that we will have available in the future the remaining LORAN-C infrastructure.

I look forward to working with Chairman Shuster, with Ranking Member DeFazio, and, of course, with Chairman Hunter in advancing this initiative wherever and whenever possible.

Again, I thank Chairman Hunter and his staff for their support for the Coast Guard and the U.S. maritime industry and for their cooperation and leadership in pulling this bill together.

Of course, Congressman Shuster, who is the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Ranking Member DeFazio also deserve thanks for their leadership and contributions.

I urge my staff and the majority’s staff for the work that they have done.

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

Mr. HUNTHER. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN).

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member and the chairman for the good work that has gone into this important bill. As somebody who represents one-third of the California coast, obviously, this legislation is important to me. I want to especially thank the chairman and ranking member for one part of this legislation that has special significance to the people of Marin County, whom I am honored to represent.

Finding affordable housing in Marin County is very difficult, and it has only gotten harder since the Great Recession and since the rebound in the real estate market. That has had an impact on the families I represent. It has had an impact on businesses and on folks in agriculture who can’t find the full-time staff that they need because they can’t afford to live in the community.

Section 501 of this bill is going to help in a very significant way to address this housing crunch in West Marin. It is going to take some Coast Guard property that is excess property and sell it at fair market value to the County of Marin. This will be a win-win for the County of Marin and also for the Coast Guard. I look forward to seeing the county begin working with local partners and this property for the public benefit of affordable housing.

We still have a long way to go to make sure that working families in places like Marin County and everywhere else have access to quality housing, but this bill is an important step for at least one community that I represent.

I thank the tireless group of advocates who have worked on this, especially West Marin County Supervisor Steve Kinsey, Kim Thompson, and all of those at the Community Land Trust Association of West Marin, and others. Finally, I thank Ranking Member DeFazio and Senator Sanders as well as the subcommittee members and staff. I thank very much the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

If I might just close by saying a special “thank you” to the chairman and his staff, to my staff—David—and to Betsy. This, this really was a bipartisan bill; so I thank Chairman Thune and the ranking Democrat on the committee, Bill Nelson, for their efforts in putting together this bill.

Let’s get this job done.

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, I think in the future is going to fulfill a much greater role than it has filled since its inception. As you have weapons of mass destruction become ubiquitous throughout the world, the bad guys are going to use the same routes that they use to smuggle drugs and people to smuggle weapons of mass destruction into this country.

It is my belief and Mr. Garamendi’s firm belief that the Coast Guard is going to play a major, pivotal role going forward. After the Iranian deal goes through, who knows who is going to have nuclear weapons. It is going to be the Coast Guard that interdicts and stops them on those same drug routes that they are going to be taking with those weapons of mass destruction; so it is important that we make sure that they are staffed, that they are capable, and that they are ready to do what we need them to do as a nation, even if it is different than what they have done for the last few hundred years.

I also thank my staff and Mr. Garamendi’s staff and my personal staff for their time and effort. I will even sneak in a thank-you for the Senate for just finally getting it done.

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4188, the “Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015”, as amended by the Senate. This legislation is virtually the same bill that the House passed last December by voice vote. I urge Members from both sides of the aisle to again support this important maritime legislation.

As I noted when the bill passed the House late last year, this legislation reflects a sensible compromise negotiated with the other body that, most importantly, would provide increased authorized funding levels and budget stability for the Coast Guard for the next two years. Combined with the matching increases in FY 2016 appropriations contained in the recently-enacted Consolidated Appropriations Act, we will have provided a solid foundation to build from in the coming fiscal year.

Additionally, the legislation includes provisions to improve Coast Guard readiness, particularly West Coast mission effectiveness, continue efforts to recapitalize the Service’s aging vessels and other assets—especially the need for new polar icebreakers—and enhance maritime security and safety policies.

Importantly, the bill extends the existing statutory prohibition preventing the Coast Guard from closing its air facility, or AIRFAC, located in Newport, Oregon.

Due to budget cuts, in 2014, the Coast Guard threatened to close the Newport AIRFAC—which handles half of the emergency search and rescue response calls on the Central Oregon Coast.

In fact, only last week a 40-foot crabbing vessel capsize a mile from the entrance to Coos Bay, throwing four fishermen into the frigid and perilous waters of the North Pacific Ocean. This incident again demonstrates that calamity can strike at anytime off the Oregon Coast. It underscores the importance of keeping a strong AIRFAC presence along the Oregon coastline, to ensure the safety of Oregon’s fishing industry, and the people who live, recreate, or work along the coast.

This legislation extends the existing statutory prohibition for an additional two years, and likely longer, depending on whether the Coast Guard completes some necessary planning to address the looming need to recapitalize its two helicopter fleets.

Moreover, after the prohibition expires, this legislation authorizes a rigorous administrative process that the Coast Guard must follow before it can close any AIRFAC.

The Coast Guard must promptly notify Members of Congress representing affected areas and convene public meetings in communities within the area of responsibility of the AIRFAC to gather information on how the closure would affect residents and visitors.

In its totality, this provision ensures that any future plan to close an AIRFAC will be vetted extensively through a transparent, public process; a process that will ensure that the Coast Guard’s search and rescue capabilities are the absolute last place any one should consider cutting in the Coast Guard’s budget.

I want to thank the Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Congressman Bill Shuster, for his leadership on this legislation. I also want to express my
appreciation for the very constructive and bipartisan working relationship we have developed to advance the agenda of the Committee this Congress. This legislation is a great start to 2016.

I also want to thank the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, Chairman DUNCAN HUNTER, and Ranking Member JOHN GARAMENDI, for their support for this provision, and for their close cooperation and contributions throughout negotiations with the other body.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the final legislation before the House is a sensible, bipartisan product that supports our Nation’s Coast Guard. And while admittedly not perfect, this legislation is something that Members on both sides of the aisle should readily support.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this critical legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Iowa). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 4198.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 4198, was agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: Yeas 439; Nays 1.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to again ask the Federal Trade Commission to uphold its responsibility to protect consumers from the harmful effects of deceptive imagery in advertising.

I urge my colleagues to join this fight because stories like Elvira’s are too important to ignore.

TRUTH IN ADVERTISING ACT OF 2016

(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 introduce the Truth in Advertising Act of 2016 to direct the FTC to more fully study deceptive ads.

Research shows that a photo-shopped body and facial image can have a negative impact on mental health, potentially leading to the onset of depression, anxiety, and other behavioral disorders.

In particular, deceptive imagery may be contributing to the explosion of eating disorders in our country, with 30 million Americans now suffering and nearly two dozen deaths occurring each day from eating disorders.

It is time we all worked together to stop these deceptive advertising practices and end their heavy cost on families and taxpayers.

GRANITE STATERS COPE WITH HEROIN EPIDEMIC

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

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize selfless Granite Staters, helping our State cope with the deadly heroin epidemic. Last month, in Rochester, I visited Hope on Haven Hill. Kerry Norton and Colene Arnold founded the charity to help pregnant New Hampshire mothers recover from heroin addiction and improve the health of their newborns.

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome—newborn babies addicted to drugs—is growing at a fast rate as heroin abuse spreads across our country. There were over 27,000 NAS cases in 2014, up from 5,000 just a decade earlier.

Babies with NAS suffer from painful withdrawal. Treatment centers like Hope on Haven Hill are helping to prevent the worst kind.

Another place in Manchester, New Hampshire, Hope for New Hampshire Recovery, will also open. Melissa Crews and Dick Anagnost, cofounders of Hope
for New Hampshire Recovery, are donating their time and energy to supply our State with more treatment options as Federal, State, and local governments develop better solutions.

In Congress we created the bipartisan task force to combat the heroin epidemic, help develop these types of solutions, and I praise these individuals for their selflessness.

HONORING MARGARET DUNLEAVY
(Mr. BISHOP of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the career of an outstanding public servant in my district, Margaret Dunleavy.

Mrs. Dunleavy retired at the end of 2015 after serving Livingston County as their clerk for 19 years. In her capacity as county clerk, Mrs. Dunleavy has been responsible for overseeing elections in the county as well as maintaining vital records and all circuit court records. She was first elected in 1996, and the voters of Livingston County chose her as their clerk in four additional elections.

Her role as county clerk was not Mrs. Dunleavy’s first public service experience. She previously served as the Hartland Township, Michigan, clerk and deputy clerk.

Mrs. Dunleavy will be remembered as a hardworking, professional, ethical, and highly qualified clerk. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to work with her, and I wish her all the best in her future retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent such a dedicated public servant in Michigan’s Eighth District.

Thank you, Mrs. Dunleavy, for your commitment to Livingston County.

HONORING JULIA AARON HUMBLES
(Mr. RICHMOND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a second to recognize a civil rights hero and New Orleans native who recently passed away. Julia Aaron Humbles.

An active participant in the civil rights movement from an early age, she was selected to be on the first Freedom Ride bus at the age of 18, which was ultimately firebombed outside Anniston, Alabama.

She wasn’t on that bus. She was, in fact, in Orleans Parish prison because she was arrested for picketing outside a segregated Woolworth’s department store.

Julia was constantly testing the rules of segregation in New Orleans. She is quoted as saying: I was the kind of kid that would move up the colored sign on the buses. I would use the White restroom or water fountain. If I got caught, I would say flippantly that I just wanted to taste that White water, and then I would run.

Julia passed away on January 26 in Stone Mountain, Georgia, of cancer.

Part of going above and beyond for Julia was constantly testing the rules of segregation in New Orleans. She was 72 years old. Our country is a much better place because of the sacrifices Julia made during her lifetime. Our sympathies and prayers are with her family today.

EQUAL TREATMENT OF PUBLIC SERVANTS ACT
(Mr. RATCLIFFE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I am humbled to represent thousands of teachers, firefighters, and law enforcement officers across the Fourth District of Texas who have dedicated their careers to public service.

As the son of two schoolteachers and a former law enforcement official myself, I have a personal and deep-felt appreciation for those who shape future generations by educating our children and protecting the communities where we live.

Right now there are nearly 900,000 of these public servants who are being unjustly denied their hard-earned retirement benefits through an arbitrary formula called the windfall elimination provision, which can reduce their Social Security checks by up to $413 a month.

That is why I have cosponsored and urged my colleagues to support H.R. 711, the Equal Treatment of Public Servants Act, to reduce and to eliminate the windfall elimination provision.

I urge my colleagues to take it up for a vote as soon as possible so that we can ensure that our public servants receive the promised Social Security credits and the pensions that they most certainly have earned.

CONGRATULATING DARYL VEATCH
(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in admiration of a leader in Missouri’s Fourth District, Mr. Daryl Veatch.

Daryl has served tirelessly to provide reliable light and energy to Missouri members of the Osage Valley Electric Cooperative, of which I am a lifelong member. After 43 years, he has resigned his position as the general manager of Osage Valley in Butler, Missouri.

His passion for excellence was seen throughout all of his work: from the beginning at Grundy Electric Cooperative, where he served as a clerk, to his tenure as the president of the Missouri Electric Cooperative Human Resources Association, the Accountants Association, and a member of the Public Relations Committee.

This year Daryl was honored with the esteemed A.C. Burrows Award given by the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives for his leadership above and beyond the call of duty to strengthen and improve the economic and social conditions of his community.

Part of going above and beyond for Daryl was being actively involved as a leader on the local Butler R-V School Board, the area Chamber of Commerce, and his Rotary Club.

Thank you for giving your life to the service of the citizens of Missouri’s Fourth District. I congratulate you on a job well done. I look forward to hearing of the continued impact you will have in and for our community.

AN HOUR OF POWER
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE
Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and add any extraneous materials relevant to the subject matter of this discussion.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to rise this evening as co-chair, along with my distinguished colleague from the Eighth District of New York, Congresswoman HAKEEM JEFFRIES, for this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour, an hour of power, addressing the state of our Union, Dr. King’s dream, and today’s African American message.

Congressman JEFFRIES is a scholar, a distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee. He continues to be a tireless advocate for social and economic justice, working hard to reform our criminal justice system, improve the economy for hardworking Americans, and to make college more affordable for all. Most importantly, he is someone that I am proud to follow and he is my colleague.

Today we come to educate and to discuss some of the many contributions and accomplishments in American history that African Americans etched into the cornerstone of this America, Mr. Speaker, that they helped change. The Congressional Black Caucus is and continues to be a part of that change.

As we reflect on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose holiday we recently observed, thanks to our Congressional Black Caucus colleague, Congressman JOHN CONyers, the dean, who worked tirelessly to have the day observed as a Federal holiday, we pause to reflect on our progress and our history not only to remember, but to acknowledge, our unfinished work.

Congressional Black Caucus members and other colleagues with constituents across the country participated in holiday services, programs, marches, and many other events last week. This was not a day off, Mr. Speaker, but a day on in the spirit of Dr. King’s legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to join some 4,000 constituents in my district in Columbus for the Nation’s largest Martin Luther King breakfast celebration.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my honor and privilege to yield to Congresswoman BARBARA LEE to bring her message to us tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I am really proud of what she is doing with the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL.

As I sit there, I was reminded of his words that we live by and that we are guided by: “Faith is taking the first step, even when you don’t see the whole staircase.” Later I had the opportunity to join hundreds of folks to march in freezing weather, singing “We Shall Overcome.”

Today we also mark the beginning of the celebration of Black History Month, to celebrate giants in civil rights, in the civil rights movement, as well as labor and education, transportation, the arts, and the service movement.

As we reflect on Dr. King’s dream, just a few weeks ago President Barack Obama from this House floor, Mr. Speaker, delivered his final State of the Union Address. In his address, the President delivered a speech filled with hope and optimism, reminding us that we, the people—emphasizing all people—want opportunity and security for our families. It was a message of a better future, fairness, and democracy for all Americans because we rise or fall together.

President Obama continues to remind us that ours is a nation bounded by a common creed and that our American values of equality, fairness, and justice should be available to all, not just a fortunate few. Far too long people and communities of color continue to be left behind when we discuss equality, fairness, and justice.

In the 48 years since his death, while we have made some strides in confronting injustices and ending unequal treatment, there is still work to be done. Our Nation is still plagued by the vestiges of segregation and unequal laws and policies, evident today in Flint, Michigan, and its lack of clean water, or in Ferguson, Baltimore, Chicago, and my State of Ohio; inequities in health care, poverty, and in our failing schools.

But, Mr. Speaker, the time is now for us to work together to protect the most at risk among us, to defend the foundation of our democracy, and to expand opportunity for all people. How? However, Republican leadership fails to act and refuses to bring up Voting Rights Advancement Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation, for an up-or-down vote.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, we will hear from our Congressional Black Caucus colleagues on the state of our Union and where we go from here. I welcome the dialogue and the debate.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my honor and privilege to yield to Congresswoman BARRA LEE to bring her message to us tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I am really proud of what she is doing with the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman TERRI SEWELL.

Of course, the right to vote is the bedrock of our democracy, which Dr. King reminded us of when he said: “Give us the ballot, and we will fill our legislative halls with men and women who really want to fight.”

As I think about his powerful words going into Black History Month and his challenge for America to live up to his highest ideals, we must reflect on how far we have come and where we need to go.

Now, of course, the right to vote is the bedrock of our democracy, which Dr. King reminded us of when he said: “Give us the ballot, and we will fill our legislative halls with men and women who really want to fight.”

As we reflect on Dr. King’s powerful words going into Black History Month and his challenge for America to live up to his highest ideals, we must reflect on how far we have come and where we need to go.

Now, of course, the right to vote is the bedrock of our democracy, which Dr. King reminded us of when he said: “Give us the ballot, and we will fill our legislative halls with men and women who really want to fight.”

As I think about his powerful words going into Black History Month and his challenge for America to live up to his highest ideals, we must reflect on how far we have come and where we need to go.

Now, of course, the right to vote is the bedrock of our democracy, which Dr. King reminded us of when he said: “Give us the ballot, and we will fill our legislative halls with men and women who really want to fight.”

As I think about his powerful words going into Black History Month and his challenge for America to live up to his highest ideals, we must reflect on how far we have come and where we need to go.

Now, of course, the right to vote is the bedrock of our democracy, which Dr. King reminded us of when he said: “Give us the ballot, and we will fill our legislative halls with men and women who really want to fight.”

As I think about his powerful words going into Black History Month and his challenge for America to live up to his highest ideals, we must reflect on how far we have come and where we need to go.

Now, of course, the right to vote is the bedrock of our democracy, which Dr. King reminded us of when he said: “Give us the ballot, and we will fill our legislative halls with men and women who really want to fight.”

As I think about his powerful words going into Black History Month and his challenge for America to live up to his highest ideals, we must reflect on how far we have come and where we need to go.
Our assistant leader, a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, a great human being who has worked so hard to eliminate poverty for so many years has come up with a formula that would target resources to those rural and urban communities with the highest rates of poverty.

We have our Half in Ten Act, which establishes a national strategy to cut poverty in half over the next decade. That is more than 22 million Americans lifted into the middle class in just 10 years. This is why coordinating local, State, and Federal anti-poverty programs.

Likewise, our Pathways Out of Poverty Act is a comprehensive anti-poverty bill that starts by creating good-paying jobs while redoubling our investments in proven programs that empower families to build pathways out of poverty into the middle class.

Of course, Dr. King mentioned the second evil, which is racism. While racial barriers and biases are endemic throughout our country, they are the most apparent in our broken criminal justice system. It is high time that we work to fix our criminal justice system that far too often falls African Americans. Yes, Black lives matter.

So in America, an African American is killed by a security officer, police officer, or self-proclaimed vigilante every 28 hours. That is nearly once a day. One in three Black men can plan to spend at least some part of their lifetime behind bars and more than half can make up 70 percent of the U.S. prison population. Let me say that again. Seventy percent of the U.S. prison population are men of color. That is simply outrageous.

Now, we have ended legal segregation. Our first African American President is serving his second term in the White House. Our Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, serves as our first African American female Attorney General. She was the first African American female to be Speaker of the House of the great State of California. It is a great honor for me because she is certainly not only a leader, but an advocate domestically and globally for young girls. As a matter of fact, when I think of her work across this Nation in foster care, I call her the Sojourner Truth of foster care.

When I think of her leadership, it is important to note that in 1945 she was the first African American female to address the House of the great State of California. Today it is indeed my honor to yield to Congresswoman Bass.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congresswoman Beatty. I want to congratulate her for her leadership that she has displayed since day one of coming to the House of Representatives, and knowing of her leadership in the State of Ohio, serving as the leader of the legislature in Ohio.

I want to acknowledge my colleague Hakeen Jeffries. I have always appreciated his leadership in the committees as well as his leadership within the House. I am glad that he is very much a part of our Caucus.

I know our theme today is: “The State of Our Union: Have We Achieved Dr. King’s Dream?” I have to say that the state of our union is a mixed bag.

Have we achieved Dr. King’s dream? As a nation we haven’t, but if we look at the success of individuals, many individuals have achieved remarkable levels of success.

While the success of individuals should rightfully be celebrated, until the richest nation on the planet has figured out how to address poverty, income inequality, and provide opportunity for everyone to succeed in our Nation, Dr. King’s dream is a long, long way away.

Dr. King would have been so proud to have been at the inauguration of the first African American President, but he would have been horrified to see a man that achieve level of success, be the President of the world, and still be subject to doubters who ask to see his birth certificate, questioning if he was actually an American, obviously code for “he might be the President, but he is still not one of us.”

Dr. King would be horrified to learn the number of hate groups. White supremacist organizations exploded after the election of the first African American President of the United States. He would have been shocked to hear that leaders in our country actually publicly stated that they would do everything they could, including hurting the national economy, to ensure that the Nation’s first African American President did not serve a second term.

Dr. King would have been overjoyed when this President was reelected to a second term, so that no one could say the first time was an aberration. Dr. King would have been so proud of the millions of people who withstood attempted to block their right to vote and to know that thousands were willing to stand for hours to make sure they voted and reelected President Obama.

Dr. King would have celebrated the creation of a program to provide health coverage for the majority of people in this nation. He is long awaited the fact that this was accomplished in the first term of President Obama’s administration.

Dr. King would have celebrated the fact that when the law was signed by President Obama, for the first time, insurance companies could no longer refuse to provide coverage for people if they had an illness or a preexisting condition.

Just think for a minute. Prior to the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies excluded you from coverage if you had a preexisting condition. There were examples of babies born prematurely that were excluded from coverage because their premature birth and the associated complications were considered a preexisting condition.

And, frankly, almost everyone after a certain age has one preexisting condition or another—hypertension, high cholesterol, et cetera. Prior to passage of healthcare reform, aging, essentially, was the reason to exclude individuals from coverage.

While Dr. King would have celebrated this victory, he would have been...
shocked to know Congress has voted over 60 times to take health care away from people and to reverse this advance. If the Affordable Care Act was repealed, then the parents of the premature baby and the adult over 60 with high blood pressure would not have health care.

On another subject, Dr. King would wonder: How on Earth did his country end up incarcerating more people than any other nation in the world? And how is it that the majority of people incarcerated in the United States are poor and are people of color?

As a man of faith, as a teacher of the Bible, he would wonder what happened to the concept of redemption in our society. How did we become a society that punished people forever? What happened to the belief that, if you offended society and then paid your debt to society, you were expected and accepted to reenter society with your full rights?

Did we evolve into a nation that basically said we will punish you for your entire life? Because even though 85 percent of people incarcerated are eventually released, we can strip away your right to vote. You cannot live in public housing, you and your family lose their housing, and if you are released from prison, you can’t go home.

If you were in prison and you owed child support, well, we just kept the clock running on what you owed even though you were in prison and, of course, could not work to pay child support. You owed the money anyway.

And, of course, when you were released, you are then behind in child support. And because you are behind because you could not work while incarcerated, we will not give you a driver’s license. And if you are from Los Angeles and cannot drive, you can forget about having a decent-paying job, because those jobs certainly don’t exist in your world.

Furthermore, if you don’t find a job, we just might violate your parole and put you back in prison, because a condition of your parole is that you have a job. But then, since you are a felon, we will not allow you to work anyway.

In California, until we changed the law, there were 56 occupations you could not participate in if you were a felon. One of those occupations we even trained you for while you were in prison and, of course, could not work to pay child support. You owed the money anyway.

I, of course, when you were released, you are then behind in child support. And because you are behind because you could not work while incarcerated, we will not give you a driver’s license. And if you are from Los Angeles and cannot drive, you can forget about having a decent-paying job, because those jobs certainly don’t exist in your world.

Furthermore, if you don’t find a job, we just might violate your parole and put you back in prison, because a condition of your parole is that you have a job. But then, since you are a felon, we will not allow you to work anyway.

In California, until we changed the law, there were 56 occupations you could not participate in if you were a felon. One of those occupations we even trained you for while you were in prison and, of course, could not work to pay child support. You owed the money anyway.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed my honor and privilege to yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. RICHMOND), who hails from the Second District of Louisiana. He is someone who is fearful and not afraid to speak up, but he doesn’t speak in vain. He speaks with a platform—whether that platform is to discuss reining our broken prison system, whether it is to talk about HBCUs, or whether it is to be a role model—about all that because he is a natural leader. When he took office in the State legislature, he was one of the youngest legislators to ever serve.

So it is indeed my honor to call Congressman Cedric Richmond a colleague and friend.

Mr. RICHMOND, I want to thank the gentlelady and scholar for yielding to me and putting on this series tonight. Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago, on January 1, President Obama proudly declared to the citizens of the United States that the state of our Union is strong. With that, I agree. However, tonight, just as I did in New Orleans on this holiday, I must stand here and give the state of the dream address.

So, today, I stand in this Chamber and report to the world that the state of the dream is in disrepair. It is in disrepair because of neglect by some and intentional harms by others. Let me first just state what I believe his dream to be. This is in his own words. In accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, Dr. King said: “I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality, and freedom for their spirits.”

So why do I say that dream is in disrepair? Because too many African American children have better access to guns and drugs than textbooks and computers. Far too many of them choose guns and drugs.

Why do I say the dream is in disrepair? Because the Supreme Court ruled back the protections for minority voting rights.

Why do I say the dream is in disrepair? Because in a Supreme Court hearing on minority admission policies to colleges and universities, one of our Supreme Court Justices demonstrated his bias, his ignorance, and his lack of understanding by trying to justify why Blacks should go to lesser colleges and universities.

Why is the dream in disrepair? Because the Black Supreme Court Justice sat there and said nothing. Well, if I were in college and I were playing Spades, I would call him “possible,” because you can’t count on him to hold up when the game starts.

Why do I also say the dream is in disrepair? Because big Wall Street executives can steel millions and never get charged and held accountable while young Black kids who shoplift get prosecuted and fill up our jails and our prisons and create what we call the prison industrial enterprise.

Some ask: Why do the poor and uneducated continue to steal and cheat? Well, the answer is simple: Because the rich and educated keep showing them how.

So, as we stand here this month and celebrate Black History Month, we will not only describe some of the problems, but we will go into some of the solutions that have been tested over time.

Let me just say that Dr. King and the generation before us did a great job of making this dream a reality through sacrifice, hard work, and commitment, but somewhere in my generation, we fell off from that sacrifice and determination.

Far too many of us are letting reality shows and music videos give our children their misguided sense of morals. Too many of our African American and White middle-class families who have achieved the dream are excited that they are there, but they are telling the rest of the world to get the best they can.

The dream can be realized when everyone realizes that you are not going to help minority communities in spite of their communities, but we are going to bring them to the table and let them be a co-participant in drafting their accomplishments.
So, where do we go from here? We continue to invest in proven leaders and proven ways out of poverty and ways to get ahead, like education. We have to invest in the Pell grants and our Historically Black Colleges and Universities because we know that education is the best way out of poverty.

We have to invest in summer jobs so that kids in urban areas and impoverished communities can get exposure to a different way of life so that they can help themselves. We know that a summer job reduces the dropout rate by 50 percent.

What else can we do? We can invest in job training. We can invest in disadvantaged businesses. We can do a number of things. And the good part about it is we have a Congressional Black Caucus that can stand here and introduce legislation if the other side would meet us halfway.

So, the state of our union will continue to be strong. The state of the dream will become a reality when people join hands together to make sure that the least of us have every opportunity in the world.

I will tell you that the dream was strong. The dream is the same dream that allowed my mother, who is from the poorest place in the country, 1 of 15 children, to achieve her college degree and raise two sons who went off to Morehouse. So the dream is real when I, as the son of a single mother, can go to Morehouse, Tulane Law School, and the Harvard School of Government. That is the dream.

So it is our job today and just ask that we do what Booker T. Washington said. We may be as separate as our fingers, but we are as whole as the hand. This body has an obligation to come together as the hand and make sure that we do what Booker T. Washington said. We may be as separate as our fingers, but we are as whole as the hand.

This body has an obligation to come together as the hand and make sure that we do what Booker T. Washington said. We may be as separate as our fingers, but we are as whole as the hand.
We are still achieving the dream. Today it is not just social injustice, but also extreme inequality that constrains economic mobility for the African American community and, therefore, for all of America.

While white-visible-sanctioned attempts to roll back voting rights in Alabama, the outright denial of equal voting rights to citizens living in the Virgin Islands and other territories, or the years of neglect that have led to the poisoning of residents in Flint, Michigan, these persistent wealth and opportunity divide in this country is rooted in the legacy of racial discrimination dating back to Reconstruction and to slavery, indeed.

Although we have achieved much since the days of separate, but equal, there are still structural barriers to achieving the American Dream for too many minority families in this country.

There is racial disparity in nearly every index of the American Dream, and those disparities place families of color further behind in their plight to achieving the dream. A recent study by the Corporation for Enterprise Development shows that families of color are two times more likely to live below the Federal poverty level, almost two times more likely to lack liquid savings, and are significantly more likely to have subprime credit scores. A lack of liquid savings among families of color often lends to further disparity and wealth loss, as evidenced by the proportion of student debt by race and ethnicity.

African American college students rely more on student loans to pay for college than do other racial groups and are less likely to pay off the debt, according to a report by the Wisconsin HOPE Lab.

While unemployment in this country has fallen to 5 percent, African American communities like my home district of the U.S. Virgin Islands continue to experience double-digit unemployment rates.

Many of these communities of color have experienced decades of systematic divestment of funding and resources that can only serve to widen the wealth and opportunity gap.

That is benign neglect, a benign neglect that has led to failing public and alternative systems like crumbling infrastructure, and, in some cases, the slide to bankruptcy, bankruptcy not just due to mismanagement and corruption, which is the convenient answer, but a systematic lack of investment, support, and adequate funding, which causes places like Detroit, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands to mortgage their children's futures in bonds to make ends meet.

African Americans make up 13 percent of the population, but have only 2.7 percent of total wealth.

This Congress has within its power to reverse the years of benign neglect to these communities through supporting legislation to invest in infrastructure and education through fighting against voter suppression efforts and supporting student loans and other finance reforms.

Closing the wealth and opportunity gap should not be a dream in post-racial America. It is the responsibility of this Congress to uphold the principles to which we were founded, to not only adhere to those powerful words that preamble our Constitution, but also to provide for our safety and to ensure that justice, liberty, and prosperity are afforded to all and not just some.

Mrs. BEATTY. Thank you to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands. Let me just say thank you for making us have a better understanding that we cannot do this alone and we have so much more work to do.

Mr. Speaker, tonight’s Special Orders hour hopefully will share with this institution the amount of work that we have yet to do. But I believe in hope and opportunity for all.

So when I listen to the great legacy that you have to present to us... whether that is Dr. Martin Luther King, whether that is Rosa Parks, we have members of this Congressional Black Caucus who stand united to provide opportunities for all.

We are often referred to as the conscience of the Congress. There is a reason for that: Because we are the voice of the voiceless.

And when I think of voices, I think of my co-anchor. I think of a man who came across the ocean who stood tall in stature and in his words, someone who is a scholar and a profound lawyer, someone who stands tall in stature and in his words, someone that I actually enjoy sitting and listening to as he so often brings the voice to the table in anchoring and shepherding us forward, what you essentially need is a fairer DNA on this soil.

It is my honor to yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) to talk to us about the state of our union, Dr. King’s dream, and African Americans who are out here before us... whether that is Dr. Martin Luther King, my good friend, for those very kind words and, of course, for her tremendous leadership in anchoring and shepherding us here this evening in the same manner that she has done since her arrival here in the House of Representatives, always eloquent, erudite, and effective.

We appreciate that unique and tremendous combination of skill and ability that you bring to the people that you represent so ably in Columbus, Ohio, and, of course, really, on behalf of America as you stand here anchoring this congressional Black Caucus Special Orders hour.

I look forward to continuing to work together throughout the year as we endeavor to speak truth to power here on the floor of the House of Representatives and articulate issues of significance and importance to African Americans in the United States of America and to all of America.

Earlier today I made the observation that this is the first day of Black History Month. Essentially, black history is American history. The two are forever intertwined. That is why the subject matter of this special order is of particular importance.

Dr. King once made the observation that the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

I think what Dr. King was saying is that in this world you have got some good folks and you have got some bad actors. But in order for justice to prevail, you essentially need a fair amount of the good folks to come together, sacrifice, work hard, and dedicate themselves to the cause of social change, and at the end of the day justice will prevail.

To make that mistake in the United States of America, of course, it has been a long and complicated march. We certainly have come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. During the founding of the Republic back in 1776, in the DNA of this country was embedded the principles of liberty and justice for all. It was a great document and a great start. Embedded in the DNA of this country was fairness, equality, and opportunity for everyone.

But there was a genetic defect called chattel slavery that was also attendant to our birth.

If you are going to have any discussion about where we are in America today, you have to say there was a genetic defect that has impacted the arc of the African American community here in America and the American story, and that genetic defect of chattel slavery stayed with us, of course, until the war ended in 1865. Millions of African American slaves were subjugated. It was one of the worst crimes ever perpetrated in the history of humanity. It finally ended in 1865 with the adoption of the 13th Amendment and the 15th Amendment followed, equal protection under the law for everyone, 14th Amendment, and the 15th Amendment was designed to guarantee the right to vote. The so-called Reconstruction period lasted until the middle of the 1870s, but it was largely abandoned thereafter.

The African Americans, of course, were given a raw, bad deal. How can one forget the genetic defect of chattel slavery with three constitutional amendments without ever really forcefully implementing them and within a decade or so abandoning the principles inherent in those constitutional amendments? In place we received the Black Codes, Jim Crow, segregation, and an intense lynching campaign unleashed on African Americans in the South, in the Midwest, in the far West, and other parts of the United States of America. So we went from chattel slavery to general slavery to hard labor to Jim Crow.

So we dealt with Jim Crow which was at least in principle abolished on paper...
Some fifty years later, this era has yet to be fully realized. While the initial challenges of recognizing and upholding civil rights have been met, many of the original problems persist, but in an evolved form. Fifty plus years later, the American people confront issues of voter suppression, gender and sexual orientation discrimination. Many communities feel under siege from those sworn to protect their liberty. Hate crimes and religious intolerance are on the rise as reported nightly on the...
news. And women contend with a pay inequity hampering their standing with men in the workplace.

In spite of all of these shortcomings, strides have been made: repealing the Voting Rights Act in 2006; the passage of legislation expanding access to healthcare; the introduction of legislation combating voter caging and deceptive practices, and the passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, signed into law by the first African-American President of the United States, himself emblematic of civil rights progress.

These issues were all, at one point in time, deemed radical. Women’s suffrage, racial equality, and now gay and lesbian rights: for each, the civil rights movement has expanded until true justice is achieved. Many problems persist and are more certain to arrive, but through renewed determination to tackle these deep-seated problems, we can one day live up to the beloved community envision by Dr. King.

While our struggle for equality stems from being afforded the basic human rights associated with a free society, the ideal of achieving economic justice, with employment for all who seek it, remains out of reach for many. The aftermath of the financial crisis has brought crippling unemployment, wage stagnation, and rising income inequality. Yet, the Great Recession has only exacerbated a decades-long decline in the fortunes of the working and middle classes. As finances continue to deteriorate, basic social and public services have often been the first to go.

In the realm of healthcare, a basic safety net was only recently afforded to the under-served in the United States with passage of the Affordable Care Act, yet millions of low-income and unemployed individuals remain uninsured. Housing remains a continued blight, as mass-foreclosures following the aftermath of the Great Recession tear apart communities and destabilizes families.

Even after fifty years of promoting Dr. King’s cause for peace, our country is enmeshed in gun violence, which tragically produced the shootings in Newtown, Aurora, Tucson, and Wisconsin, and daily on the streets of America’s most populated cities. These horrific occurrences are unacceptable for our nation, which is why catapulting peace to the forefront of our nation’s agenda will save lives and protect our most vital right under the Constitution: life. I am hopeful that by strengthening our gun laws we can remove military style weapons out of our communities, prohibit the sale of deadly gun clips, and close loopholes on the sale of guns.

Our rate of incarceration and length of sentences are unjust and unsustainable. The United States incarcerates 25 percent of the world’s prisoners, while we have only five percent of the world’s population. And we disproportionately prosecute and incarcerate African Americans more than any other race. This is the result of what President Obama has called a “huge explosion” in our incarceration rates, with 500,000 people imprisoned in America in 1980 growing to 2.2 million today. We must change our prosecution policies and sentencing laws to address this crisis, and I am working with my colleagues to do that.

The profiling of racial and religious minorities is also a terrible reality that threatens peace in our nation. Profiling is an archaic form of discrimination that subjects individuals to criminal indictments or investigations based on their race or religion. Although profiling cannot be found in any form of written law, the practice is real in America and threatens the trust and peace that is essential in the relationship between citizens and their law enforcement. Our nation’s leaders can work to pass legislation, such as the End Racial Profiling Act, to prohibit this practice in any law enforcement agency and the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act to provide real standards for the operation of police departments.

As we press forward to address inequality in the 21st Century, the outstanding question is whether or not Congress will rise to tackle these issues. The American people have already witnessed how politics can transform our legislative body into a body producing nothing but dysfunction. However, the erosion of Congress’s focus on protecting civil rights and civil liberties can be reversed.

This Congress has the opportunity to answer these present injustices by assuming the unwavering commitment to jobs, justice, and peace that was displayed so valiantly by Dr. Martin Luther King. Ending inequality in America is a battle that can be won, and although the enemy is still the same, our approach in the 21st century must not lack the strength and courage of those who have fought so bravely before us.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this February we recognize and celebrate the 39th commemoration of Black History Month. This month we celebrate the contributions of African Americans to the history of our great nation, and pay tribute to trailblazers, pioneers, heroes, and leaders like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. Ending inequality in America is a battle that can be won, and although the enemy is still the same, our approach in the 21st century must not lack the strength and courage of those who have fought so bravely before us.

The greatest of these giants to me are Mrs. Ivalita “Ivy” Jackson, a vocational nurse, and Mr. Ezra A. Jackson, one of the first African-Americans to succeed in the comic book publishing business.

They were my beloved parents and they taught me the value of education, hard work, discipline, perseverance, and caring for others. And I am continually inspired by Dr. Elyn Lee, my husband and the first tenured African American law professor at the University of Houston.

Mr. Speaker, I particularly wish to acknowledge the contributions of African American veterans in defending from foreign aggressors and who by their courageous examples helped transform our nation from a segregated society to a nation committed to the never ending challenge of perfecting our union.

Last year about this time, I was honored to join my colleagues, Congressmen JOHN LEWIS and Congressman CHARLES RANGEL, a Korean War veteran, in paying tribute to surviving members of the Tuskegee Airmen and the 555th Parachute Infantry, the famed “Triple Nickels” at a moving ceremony sponsored by the U.S. Army commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The success of the Tuskegee Airmen in escorting bombers during World War II—achieving one of the lowest loss records of all the escort fighter groups, and being in constant demand for their services by the allied bomber units—is a record unmatched by any other fighter group.

So impressive and astounding were the feats of the Tuskegee Airmen that in 1948 they persuaded President Harry Truman to issue his famous Executive Order No. 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States Armed Forces and led to the end of racial segregation in the U.S. military forces.

It is a source of enormous and enduring pride that my father-in-law, Phillip Ferguson Lee, was one of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Clearly, what began as an experiment to determine whether “colored” soldiers were capable of operating expensive and complex combat aircraft ended as an unparalleled success born of the experience of the Tuskegee Airmen, whose record included 261 aircraft destroyed, 148 aircraft damaged, 15,553 combat sorties and 1,578 missions over Italy and North Africa.

They also destroyed or damaged over 950 units of ground transportation and escorted more than 200 bombing missions. They proved that “the antidote to racism is excellence in performance,” as retired Lt. Col. Herbert Carter once remarked.

Mr. Speaker, Black History Month is also a time to remember many pioneering women like U.S. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm; activists Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks; astronaut Mae C. Jemison; authors Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Gwendolyn Brooks; all of whom have each in their own way, whether through courageous activism, cultural contributions, or artistic creativity, forged social and political change, and forever changed our great Nation for the better.

It is also fitting, Mr. Speaker, that in addition to those national leaders whose contributions...
have made our nation better, we honor also those who have and are making a difference in their local communities.

In my home city of Houston, there are numerous great men and women. They are great because they have heeded the counsel of Dr. King who said, "Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

By that measure, I wish to pay tribute to some of the great men and women of Houston:

1. Rev. F.N. Williams, Sr.
2. Rev. Dr. S.J. Gilbert, Sr.
3. Rev. Crawford W. Kimble
4. Rev. Eldridge Stanley Branch
5. Rev. William A. Lawson
7. Mr. El Franco Lee
8. Mr. John Brand
9. Ms. Ruby Moseley
10. Ms. Dorothy Hubbard
11. Ms. Doris Hubbard
12. Ms. Willie Bell Boone
13. Ms. Holly HogoBrooks
14. Mr. Deloyd Parker
15. Ms. Lenora "Doll" Carter

As we celebrate Black History Month, let us pay tribute to those who have come before us, and praise future generations by addressing what is the number one issue for African American families, and all American families today: preserving the American promise of economic opportunity for all.

Our immediate focus must be job creation, and enacting legislation that will foster the foundation for today’s and tomorrow’s generation of groundbreaking activists, leaders, scientists, writers and artists to continue contributing to the greatness of America.

We must work to get Americans back to work.

We must continue to preserve the American Dream for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand here in celebration of the heroic and historic acts of African Americans and their indispensable contributions to this great Nation. "What would Dr. King do?" or "How would the great leaders from our past would perceive the state of our union today. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is one such leader who envisioned a greater future for our Nation in the face of un-speakable discrimination and intolerance. In his famous "I Have a Dream" speech delivered at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., Dr. King laid out his vision of our country where all men are created equal and where freedom must ring if America is to be a great nation.

Today, those principles ring true. We have made great progress as a nation to move away from the darkest moments of our past. Yet, there is still much work to be done. We have witnessed continued efforts to disenfranchise select groups of voters by gutting the Voting Rights Act and persistent racial tension between law enforcement and the communities they are sworn to protect. It is a constant struggle that affects communities all across the United States, and suggests that more work needs to be done if we are to achieve Dr. King’s dream.

Mr. Speaker, the freedoms we enjoy in the United States are not absolute. The principles and values that define our Nation are constantly challenged and ever-evolving. Dr. King had a distinct vision for the future of our Nation and his legacy can help guide our decisions moving into the future so that we can avoid making the same mistakes of our past.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, each February our nation takes time to reflect on the countless contributions African Americans have made to this country’s history. We celebrate innovators like Ohio District 11’s own Langston Hughes, pioneers like astronaut Mae Jamison, as well as political and civil rights leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Black History Month represents inclusion and innovation. It promotes America at its best. For in this month, we appreciate our collective strength and recognize the diversity of each and every patriot.

America is a country of immigrants, and our power lies in our differences. To quote Dr. King, "We may hail from different ships, but we’re in the same boat now.

No matter how we arrived, every American should have access to the same opportunity. Every individual should be able to reach his or her own potential and succeed in the home of the free and the land of the brave.

Unfortunately, many do not have equitable access to opportunity. This is why the Congressional Black Caucus stands today.

Despite the contributions and sacrifice of African Americans, many still suffer from the effects of historic injustices and prejudice. We are almost three times more likely to live in poverty than Whites, and six times more likely to be put in jail. Our unemployment rate is nearly two times the rates of Whites. When we do find work, we make less than our White counterparts.

As Black America reflects on its current situation, many tend to ask questions such as, “What would Dr. King do?” or “How would the civil rights leaders of the past address the issues of the present?”

If Dr. King were here today, I believe he would certainly be proud of who we are. But he would also say that we must commit ourselves to moving forward together as one people and one nation.

It is time we “fix our politics.” Not just in Washington, but everywhere.

As President Barack Obama stated recently, “We are in a time of extraordinary change.” The Members of this House have the opportunity to pass policies that reverse years of bigotry and injustice and level the playing field for all.

This Black History Month, I urge my Congressional colleagues to celebrate through legislative action. Develop a new formula to ensure the right to vote for all Americans. Reauthorize the Higher Education Act to help more kids go to college. Combat harsh sentencing through criminal justice reform.

These actions won’t just honor a race of people. They will further the hope and success of an entire nation.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:
Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and February 2 on account of a family emergency.
Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

EXPENDITURES BY THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL UNDER HOUSE RESOLUTION 676, 113TH CONGRESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee on House Administration, House of Representatives, Washington, DC, January 29, 2016.</th>
<th>H. Res. 676</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hon. PAUL D. RYAN, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and February 2 on account of a family emergency.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. JACKSON LEE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CANDICE S. MILLER, Chairman.

AGGREGATE AMOUNT EXPENDED ON OUTSIDE COUNSEL OR OTHER EXPERTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount Expended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 1–September 30, 2014</td>
<td>$.42,975.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1–December 31, 2014</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1–March 31, 2015</td>
<td>29,915.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 1, 2015–June 30, 2015</td>
<td>21,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1–September 30, 2015</td>
<td>45,707.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1–December 31, 2015</td>
<td>149,497.67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total | 189,497.67 |

ADJOURNMENT
Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o’clock and 27 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 2, 2016, 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:

4156. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2013-6062; airspace Docket No.: 15-ANM-26] (RIN: 2120-AA96) received January 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4157. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes (Docket No.: FAA-2013-0300; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-161-AD; Amendment 18-3319; AD 2015-09-03) (RIN: 2120-AA96) received January 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4158. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes (Docket No.: FAA-2013-0300; Directorate Identifier 2011-NM-163-AD; Amendment 18-3319; AD 2015-09-03) (RIN: 2120-AA96) received January 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4159. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0675; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-213-AD; Amendment 18-3310; AD 2015-09-03] (RIN: 2120-AA96) received January 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4161. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Piper Aircraft, Inc. [Docket No.: FAA-2015-8311; Directorate Identifier 2015-CE-659-AD; Amendment 18-3316; AD 2015-09-03] (RIN: 2120-AA96) received January 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4162. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes (Docket No.: FAA-2015-1281; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-241-AD; Amendment 18-3316; AD 2015-09-03) (RIN: 2120-AA96) received January 27, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5392. A bill to amend the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act to enhance recreational opportunities, environmental restoration activities, and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–404, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MILLER of Florida: Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. H.R. 677. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans with an amendment (Rept. 114–405). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2187. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise its regulations regarding the qualifications of natural persons as accredited investors; with an amendment (Rept. 114–406). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2209. A bill to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to treat certain municipal obligations as level 2A liquid assets, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–407). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3784. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish an Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and a Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 114–408). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4186. A bill to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act and to require a report of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. MILLER of Michigan: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 1670. A bill to direct the Architect of the Capitol to place in the United States Capitol a chair honoring American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (Rept. 114–410). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. STIVERS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 594. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3700) to provide housing opportunities in the United States through modernization of various housing programs, and for other purposes (Rept. 114–411). 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 to:

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN: H.R. 4396. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for requirements relating to documentation for major acquisitions programs for purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. ESTY, Mr. SERRA, Mr. BASS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. JUDY CHI of California, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DESAUNLIER, Mr. DUCHET, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. FRENSKEL of Florida, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. LAWRENCE, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MICHELLE LIUAN GEISHMAN of Nevada, Mr. STEWART, Mr. PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSU, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TSONGAS, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ): H.R. 4399. A bill to repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, and provide for the discoverability and admissibility of gun trace information in civil proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD (for himself and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana): H.R. 4400. A bill to expand the tropical disease product priority review voucher program to encourage treatments for Zika virus; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK (for himself, Mr. McCaul, Mr. KATKO, Mr. HURD of Texas, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. RECHERT, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. KEATING, Mr. VELA, and Mr. PAYNE): H.R. 4401. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide countering violent extremism training of National Domestic Security representatives at State and local fusion centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. HURD of Texas (for himself, Mr. McCaul, Mr. KATKO, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. KEATING, Mr. VELA, and Mr. PAYNE): H.R. 4402. A bill to require a review of information regarding persons that traveled or attempted to travel from the United States to support terrorist organizations in Syria and Iraq, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. HURD of Texas (for himself, Mr. McCaul, Mr. Katko, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. KEATING, Mr. VELA, and Mr. PAYNE):
By Mr. GRIFFITTH:
H.R. 4411. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIFFITTH:
H.R. 4412. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of a hydroelectric project; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HUNTER (for himself and Mr. VARDA):
H.R. 4413. A bill to prohibit the use of funds to provide assistance to the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency under the Agreement Between the United Nations and the Governments of the Islands of the Pacific to address a public health risk associated with drinking water requirements; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Ms. MOORE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. MOORE of Florida, Ms. LEZ, and Mr. HONDA):
H.R. 4415. A bill to establish an Early Federal Pell Grant Commitment Program; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MCKINLEY (for himself and Mr. DELAUNAY):
H.R. 4416. A bill to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOUTLON:
H.R. 4417. A bill to authorize the Department of Commerce to change the boundaries of the National Marine Sanctuary; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MOLQUI:
H.R. 4418. A bill to amend chapter 77 of title 10, United States Code, to increase the maximum reimbursement amount authorized for travel expenses incurred by the Select Reserve of the Ready Reserve to attend inactive duty training outside of normal commuting distances; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama:
H. Res. 593. A resolution expressing support for designation of the week of February 1, 2016, through February 5, 2016, as “National School Counseling Week”; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

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 Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:
H.R. 3939. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SCHIFF:
H.R. 3939. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. BUTTERFIELD:
H.R. 4400. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority in which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to regulate Commerce as enumerated by Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause.

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:
H.R. 4401. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. HURD of Texas:
H.R. 4402. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:
H.R. 4410. A bill to permit expungement of records for certain nonviolent criminal offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.
H.R. 4403.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 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. ISRAEL:
H.R. 4405.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 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. KATKO:
H.R. 4408.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 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. CARNEY:
H.R. 4409.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
By Mr. COHEN:
H.R. 4410.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8—The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
By Mr. GRIFFITH:
H.R. 4411.
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, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. GRIFFITH:
H.R. 4412.
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 Mr. HUNTER:
H.R. 4413.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. KILDEE:
H.R. 4414.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section VIII
By Mrs. LAWRENCE:
H.R. 4415.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
According to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, impoasts 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.
By Mr. MOULTON:
H.R. 4417.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
By Ms. NORTON:
H.R. 4418.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.
By Ms. NORTON:
H.R. 4419.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.
By Mr. POLIQUIN:
H.R. 4420.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 grants Congress the power to "regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States."
By Mr. RANGEL:
H.R. 4421.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8
By Mr. RICHMOND:
H.R. 4422.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 7; Article I, Section 8, Clause 1; Article I, Section 8, Clause 18; and Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.
Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill.
By Mr. TONKO:
H.R. 4423.
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. YOUNG of Alaska:
H.R. 4424.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8: The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution (clauses 12, 13, 14, 16, and 18), which grants Congress the power to raise and support an Army; to provide and maintain a Navy; to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces; to provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the militia; and to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the foregoing powers.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS
Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:
H.R. 27: Mr. WILLIAMS.
H.R. 38: Mr. WATERS.
H.R. 192: Mr. ROSS.
H.R. 213: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 229: Ms. NORTON and Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 244: Mr. JENKINS.
H.R. 250: Mr. POMPEO and Mr. COFFMAN.
H.R. 267: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 320: Mr. JOHNSON of Kansas.
H.R. 343: Mr. ZELDIN.
H.R. 358: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 379: Mrs. BLACK and Ms. LORETTA SANFORD of California.
H.R. 400: Mr. MACARTHUR.
H.R. 430: Mr. COSTA and Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 446: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 499: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 551: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 605: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.
H.R. 654: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. BARNIN, and Mr. ROKTA.
H.R. 696: Mr. MEEHAN.
H.R. 703: Mr. PUTTS.
H.R. 790: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.
H.R. 793: Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 802: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. GUILALVA.
H.R. 815: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California.
H.R. 842: Mr. GARRETT, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. FARR, and Mr. DOUGUET.
H.R. 845: Ms. JENKINS of Kansas.
H.R. 849: Mr. JOLLY.
H.R. 870: Mr. POLIS, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 909: Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 915: Mr. JEFFRIES.
H.R. 927: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 953: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. DOLD.
H.R. 994: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 1061: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1076: Mr. GUTIERREZ and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 1089: Mr. HIGGINS and Ms. LOPES.
H.R. 1112: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1125: Mr. HURD and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1150: Mr. SALMON and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1198: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 1208: Mr. SIMS.
H.R. 1210: Mr. SCHRAMM.
H.R. 1214: Mr. CARNEY.
H.R. 1215: Mr. MURDOCH.
H.R. 1216: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 1218: Mr. HAWLEY.
H.R. 1219: Mr. HUNTER.
H.R. 1221: Mr. HURD.
H.R. 1222: Mr. SCHRAMM.
Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. S. WALWELL of California.

Florida, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. JOLLY, and Mr. PAULSEN.

Ms. COSIUS, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. W. SMITH of New Jersey.

Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 2653: Mr. COOK.

H.R. 2663: Mr. VALADAO, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 2669: Mr. TIED LUHAN of New Mexico, Mrs. McMIller, and Mr. BEN ROTHFUS, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 2730: Mr. KELLY of New York, Ms. MENAUER, Mr. WALZ, and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 2734: Mr. DECARLO, Mr. BABSON, and Mr. LENNOX.

H.R. 2738: Mr. FLORIDA of Florida, Mr. LAMIA, Mr. GARMENDI, and Mr. DOFFET.

H.R. 2740: Mr. TIED LUHAN of New Mexico, Mrs. McMIller, and Mr. BEN ROTHFUS, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 2744: Mr. TIED LUHAN of New Mexico, Mrs. McMIller, and Mr. BEN ROTHFUS, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 2747: Mr. TIED LUHAN of New Mexico, Mrs. McMIller, and Mr. BEN ROTHFUS, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 2750: Mr. TIED LUHAN of New Mexico, Mrs. McMIller, and Mr. BEN ROTHFUS, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 2754: Mr. TIED LUHAN of New Mexico, Mrs. McMIller, and Mr. BEN ROTHFUS, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 2758: Mr. TIED LUHAN of New Mexico, Mrs. McMIller, and Mr. BEN ROTHFUS, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 2762: Mr. TIED LUHAN of New Mexico, Mrs. McMIller, and Mr. BEN ROTHFUS, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 2766: Mr. TIED LUHAN of New Mexico, Mrs. McMIller, and Mr. BEN ROTHFUS, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 2769: Mr. TIED LUHAN of New Mexico, Mrs. McMIller, and Mr. BEN ROTHFUS, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 2773: Mr. TIED LUHAN of New Mexico, Mrs. McMIller, and Mr. BEN ROTHFUS, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 2777: Mr. TIED LUHAN of New Mexico, Mrs. McMIller, and Mr. BEN ROTHFUS, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 2781: Mr. TIED LUHAN of New Mexico, Mrs. McMIller, and Mr. BEN ROTHFUS, and Mrs. LOVE.

H.R. 2785: Mr. TIED LUHAN of New Mexico, Mrs. McMIller, and Mr. BEN ROTHFUS, and Mrs. LOVE.
H. Res. 571: Mr. Barr and Mrs. Black.
H. Res. 582: Mr. Gohmert, Mr. Mullin, Mrs. Walorski, Mr. Nugent, Mrs. Ellmers of North Carolina, and Mr. Collins of New York.
H. Res. 586: Ms. Hahn, Mr. Murphy of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Cohen.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 546: Mr. Michael F. Doyle of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1019: Mr. Farenthold.
H.R. 1401: Mr. Farenthold.
The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BILL CASSIDY, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.
Eternal Spirit, the center of our joy.
You are the source of all of our blessings. Thank You for Your unfailing love that provides us each day with the privilege of glorifying Your Name. Lord, help us to remember that You are an ever-present help for all our troubles.

Today, inspire our Senators to trust You to direct their steps. As they are pressed by many issues, help them to slow down long enough to seek Your wisdom. Cheer their hearts with the knowledge that in everything You are working for the good of those who love You, sustaining them by Your grace.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The bill clerk read the following letter:


To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BILL CASSIDY, a Senator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

OREN G. HATCH, President pro tempore.

Mr. CASSIDY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ENERGY POLICY MODERNIZATION BILL
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the senior Senator from Alaska knows that reform is urgently needed to modernize America's energy policies for a new era, with new challenges and new opportunities. Under her leadership, the energy committee has worked hard the past year to achieve that aim.

That constructive and collaborative process ultimately resulted in a broad bipartisan energy bill, the Energy Policy Modernization Act. It cleared committee with the support of more than 80 percent of the Senators, Republicans and Democrats alike, including the top energy committee Republican, the Senator from Alaska, and the top energy committee Democrat, the Senator from Washington. Both recognize the importance of preparing our country for the energy challenges of today and the energy opportunities of tomorrow.

They are also committed bill managers. I ask colleagues to continue working with them as they have amendments. Talk to the Senators from Alaska and Washington and get your amendments dealt with. This is bipartisan legislation that provides a commonsense approach to help Americans produce more energy, pay less for energy, save energy, all without raising taxes or adding to the deficit.

Let's keep working and move the process forward. Let's keep working to pass this bipartisan bill.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

ENERGY POLICY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2015
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2012, which the clerk will report.

PENDING:
Murkowski amendment No. 2963, in the nature of a substitute, to amendment No. 2964 (to amendment No. 2953), to provide for certain increases in, and limitations on, the drawdown and sales of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.
Murkowski amendment No. 2953, to amendment No. 2953, to modify a provision relating to bulk-power system reliability impact statements.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate in morning business.

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

CONGRATULATING THE NFL'S NFC CHAMPION CAROLINA PANTHERS AND THE ARIZONA CARDINALS
Mr. MCCAIN. Last week, Senator TILLIS and I agreed to a friendly—or not so friendly—wager on the NFC championship game. The terms of that friendly wager are that the loser would...
deliver a congratulatory speech on the Senate floor and wish the winner luck in the Super Bowl. Unfortunately—even tragically—this is what brings me before you today. It is also why I am wearing this unsightly blue tie, which I am sure is an assault on the senses of C-SPAN viewers all over the world.

It is with all sincerity that I wish the Carolina Panthers luck as they play the Denver Broncos in Super Bowl 50. The 15–1 NFC championship season has been a thing of remarkable. Led by head coach Ron Rivera and the sensational quarterback Cam Newton, the Panthers have been a dominant force all season long as they certainly were against the Arizona Cardinals. I have no doubt we will see the Panthers’ explosive offense continue to have success in Super Bowl 50. While I could go on about the Panthers’ impressive offensive line and coaching staff, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my Arizona Cardinals on an exceptional season that included numerous milestones. The Cardinals’ wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald wrote recent—this is the Cardinals’ “broke the mold of what kind of football people expect to be played in the desert.” Witnessing the team achieve a franchise record of 13 regular season wins and a No. 2 seed in the NFC, Arizonans could not agree more.

Perhaps there is no better example of the Cardinals’ toughness and never-say-die attitude than their thrilling January 16 overtime win over Green Bay. After an improbable Hail Mary touchdown pass from Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers to send the game into overtime, the Cardinals—boosted by two amazing and memorable plays by the legendary Larry Fitzgerald—scored the game-winning touchdown to advance to the NFC championship game.

I have always been proud to count myself among the legion of dedicated Cardinals fans, and I am confident Arizona will continue to see exciting Super Bowl-caliber performances in the season to come.

Congratulations to Arizona Cardinals’ president Michael Bidwell, head coach Bruce Arians, and the members of the 2015 Arizona Cardinals on a banner season. I also recognize Larry Fitzgerald, Carson Palmer, Patrick Peterson, Mike Iupati, Justin Bethel, Calais Campbell, and Tyrann Mathieu, known as the Honey Badger, for being selected as the 2015 NFL's Pro Bowl. I am confident Arizona will continue to see exciting Super Bowl-caliber performances in the season to come.

As we promised, we began an open amendment process, which has already drawn close to 200 proposals now. Last week we accepted 11 amendments. We had three rollcall votes, and we voted eight today. It is important to recognize that those amendments were sponsored by 14 different Senators. They were cosponsored by many, many others, and they really add to the Members whose priorities we have seen incorporated into the energy bill through the process that we had in committee. So the benefit of really getting back to regular order, where you have good, robust committee work, then being able to come to the floor, to go through the amendment process, the whole gamut. Members is kind of good, old-fashioned governing. I like the fact that we are back to it.

We agreed to boost our efforts to develop advanced nuclear energy technologies. This came to us by way of an amendment from a very diverse group. Some might not have anticipated the collection of Senators that this advanced nuclear amendment brought together. We had Senator Booker, both Senator Kink and Senator Durbin from Illinois, as well as Senator Hatch and Senator Whitehouse. With this amendment, we have added new perspectives in terms of political perspectives as well as geographic.

We also agreed to a proposal from Senator Daines and Senator Tester that will help facilitate the use of clean, renewable hydropower in their State of Montana.

Among others, we agreed to an amendment from Senator Capito and Senator Manchin to study the feasibility of an ethane storage and distribution in the United States. I think that is a real possibility as a result of the shale gas revolution.

We moved through 11 amendments. Eleven is a good number, but, honestly, I would have hoped that we would have been able to process more amendments last week. What we are going to do this week—and I am going to put everybody on notice—that is we are going to double our efforts. I want to move forward and process even more over these next couple of days.

Some might not have anticipated the blizzard, the snow days. We agreed to boost our efforts to de-
As we resume consideration of this legislation today, I also want to explain how the provisions that are already within the Energy Policy Modernization Act will help our country. I want to do that today—to spend a few minutes of time today—by explaining how it will benefit my home State of Alaska, how it will help Alaskans produce more energy and more minerals, how it will help Alaskans pay less for their energy, and how it will boost Alaska’s economy at a time when we need it the most.

The most obvious place to start is with supply. Alaska, as all my colleagues know, is a producer for the rest of the country—really, for the rest of the world. That is our legacy. It is also our future. That is because we are blessed with an amazing abundance of resources that most States—and, really, even most countries—cannot even dream of. You name the resource, and there is a pretty good chance that we have it. There is a pretty good chance that we have a lot of it.

How will our bill help Alaska produce more energy and minerals? For starters, it boosts hydropower development. Hydropower right now provides 24 percent of our electricity, and it’s good and critically important. There are however more than 200 promising sites with untapped hydropower potential. So our commitment to this clean, renewable resource and our efforts to improve our processes is one that could benefit communities throughout the southeastern part of the State, the south-central part, and the southwest. It provides benefit for all.

Our bill also streamlines the approval process for LNG exports. The Presiding Officer knows full well the benefit that this will bring to the country, but it will also ensure that in Alaska our efforts to market its stranded natural gas can proceed in a timely and without Federal delay, which is extremely important for us as we move forward with our efforts to move Alaska’s natural gas.

It will also help Alaskans harness more of our geothermal potential. We have enormous quantities of geothermal, but we have some challenges, as you know, with our extensive geography. But we are looking to develop a renewable resource that could potentially help power one-quarter of our States’ communities, particularly in some very remote, high-cost energy States.

Our bill also reauthorizes a program to advance the development of electricity from ocean and river currents as well as tides and waves. I have mentioned before that Alaska has some 33,000 miles of coastline. That is a lot of area to harness the power of the tides and waves. There is considerable potential to generate electricity from our extensive river systems as well.

So working to do more with our marine hydrokinetic and our ocean energy could really provide a boost to projects that are showcasing some new technologies, such as those that we have proposed in Igiugig. Yakutat is looking at a project south of Kenai and along the Yukon River.

Within the bill we also promote the production of heat and electricity from the minerals within our forests, which could help the development of technology to aid the construction of wood pellet plants across the State, again taking that resource that is helping to reduce our energy costs. It will also renew a research program to develop Alaska’s immense resources of frozen methane hydrates. This is something they sometimes call fire ice. It has significant promise as a secure, long-term source of American energy, but making sure that we are able to move out on that research is going to be important.

There is a subtitle on minerals, a very important part of our bill. I spoke Thursday that we have incorporat ed much of the text of my American Mineral Security Act, which is designed to focus on our Nation’s deepening dependence on foreign minerals and the concern that we do not want to get in the same place with our minerals that we once saw with oil, where we are reliant on foreign sources to supply the things that we need.

We are obviously known in Alaska for our oil production, but Alaska also has nearly unparalleled potential for mineral production. We had a hearing last year before the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and we had the deputy commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Ed Fogels, testify. He said: If Alaska were a country, we would be in the top 10 in the world for coal, copper, lead, gold, zinc, and silver. He also noted that we have the potential to produce many of the minerals that we import from abroad. One example is our State government has already identified over 70 deposits of rare earth elements just within the borders of the State. As I mentioned last week on the floor, we use rare earth elements from renewable energy technologies and smartphones to defense applications. Right now in this country we are not producing any of that supply—none of that supply on our own—yet we have the potential to do it in Alaska.

If we pass this bill, our Nation will begin to place a much greater priority on resource assessments so that we can understand what we have. If we have not done an assessment, how do we really know the extent of our mineral resources?

We will finally make some commonsense reforms to improve our permitting system, which could benefit some of the projects that we have that we would like to get moving on. We have a project on Prince of Wales Island called Bokan Mountain that has rare earth potential. We are working with the State legislature on a project near Nome, and making sure that we help some of the changes that we see within this bill will be important.

As we produce more of our natural resources, Alaskans will benefit significantly. We will see new jobs created, new revenues will be generated for our State’s treasury, and local energy costs, which is the next area I want to talk about—how it will help Alaskans to keep more of their money for other purposes and needs. This is an issue when I am at home and I am talking to Alaskans about what their No. 1 concerns and priorities are. I do not care where part of the State I am talking to folks. It is all about the high energy costs and what we can do to make a difference. What can we do to bring down our energy costs?

The Energy Policy Modernization Act will not only boost our energy supplies, but it is also designed to help lower the costs of energy and to help lower the cost of energy for Alaskans. We are an energy and a mineral producer in the State, but due to our vast geography, energy costs are still extremely expensive in many parts of the State. It is always an eyeopener for people to do a comparison of what is going on with energy costs. Right now in the lower 48, people are enjoying going to the filling station and seeing prices that are less than they were in Nome, AK, just a few weeks ago, and they are paying over $5.50 a gallon at the pump. It is not unusual that in many of our communities around the State, we are still looking at $6 a gallon. That is fuel for your vehicles or your snow machine or your four-wheeler to move you around or for your boat. It is also your stove oil and how you are keeping warm.

So it is moving around, keeping you warm, and you are paying extraordinarily high costs. In many cases, our electricity costs are two to three times higher than in most other States. When we think about what it means to live in a community where effectively two-thirds to three-quarters of your budget goes to stay warm and to keep the lights on—what does that leave for educating your kids, for feeding your kids, and for retirement? It does not leave you with much when you are spending half of your income to stay warm and to keep your lights on. This is part of the reality in Alaska that every day we work to address and every day we work to make a difference.

State Senator Lymon Hoffman is from the Bethel region and has been a voice for rural Alaska. He sent me a letter last year. He wrote that “the high cost of diesel and home heating fuels are just crushing” in rural Alaska and that he believes “the energy situation is the single, most important problem facing the lives and well-being of rural Alaskans.” I agree with him. That is why we worked so hard within the Energy Policy Modernization Act to make sure that as we are modernizing the grid, we are working to do everything we can to lower the costs of energy for Americans and for Alaskans. We reauthorized the
Weatherization Assistance Program, which provides our State with funding to improve the energy efficiency for low-income families’ homes. We also renewed the State Energy Program, which allows Alaska to invest in energy efficiency, renewable energy, emergency preparedness, and other priorities.

As we have heard talked about on the floor, we have an entire title of the bill—Senator PORTMAN and Senator SCHATZ have been working on this—devoted to efficiency for everything from voluntary building code improvements to the retrofitting of schools. As our vehicles, our appliances, and our homes are all becoming more energy efficient, that in turn works to reduce energy consumption as well as energy costs throughout the State.

This bill also has a provision to promote the development of hybrid microgrid systems. I get excited about this because I know the direct application in my State. It allows communities to utilize local resources and storage technologies. Microgrids are critical within the State of Alaska. We have multiple dozens of isolated communities that are not far away from anybody’s grid. In fact, they are hundreds of miles from anything that could even be considered a grid. So how do they get their energy? They are basically burning diesel to meet their electricity needs. So what we are seeing come together are energy, save energy, and reduce local energy costs. In the process, the extra gain and benefit is that we create new jobs, generate new revenues, and provide other economic benefits we sorely need right now.

I have talked about Alaska and the impacts on my State as a result of modernizing our energy policies, but know that as Alaska benefits, other States benefit as well. Many of the provisions this afternoon are just as applicable in Louisiana, Maine, Arizona, and Montana as they are in my State. This bill will fairly bring economic benefits to every State, and as it brings economic benefits, the energy security that stems from the economic security that leads to the national security makes us all stronger—yet another reason I encourage the Senate to work with Senator CANTWELL and me over the next days to move forward this broad, bipartisan effort to modernize our Nation’s energy policies.

Mr. President, I know we have Members who are anxious to speak this afternoon. Again, I will make the same request I made earlier: If Members are interested in submitting any amendments to the Energy Policy Modernization Act, now is the time because we are going to be moving—and hopefully moving quickly—so we can proceed with some efficiency and efficiency throughout this week.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Mexico.

WELCOMING THE NEW PAGES

MR. UDALL. Mr. President, I wish to echo the comments Senator MURKOWSKI made in terms of the new pages. We welcome all of you. We are excited about having you here. It is a big change to go from the previous pages to the new pages. We are excited about how the floor is working. As many people will tell you around here, pages end up doing great things. I have served in the House, and I have served in the Senate. There are Members of the House who started as pages, and there are Members of the Senate who started here as pages. So we are proud of you and expect good things of you.

Mr. President, it has been over 8 years since we passed an energy bill. A lot has changed since then.

I first want to thank Senators MURKOWSKI and CANTWELL for their leadership. In the hard work both of them worked very hard to find common ground. Senator MURKOWSKI is my chairman of the Interior Department Appropriations subcommittee, and she is always trying to find a way for us to work together to move that appropriations bill forward. The same thing is true of Senator CANTWELL’s very good leadership on the energy committee. They both had a very tough job, and they crafted an energy bill that I believe serves us for the future.

This legislation isn’t perfect, but it is bipartisan and it is moving us in the right direction. I am pleased that my bill, the Smart Energy and Water Efficiency Act, was included in this legislation. All too often, energy is lost. A lot of it is wasted because of leaks and broken pipes. My State and many States have had historic droughts. We need every drop of water we can get. We can’t afford leaking pipes. We have to do better.

This bill supports the Federal pilot projects to develop water and energy efficiency technology. We can create a smart grid of technology to detect leaks in pipes even before they happen. This is critical to communities all across our Nation. Saving water is saving energy. Treating and transporting water is energy intensity. The more we waste, the more we pay—now and later.

I also plan to file an amendment. I have been working on with a number of other Senators. This amendment, like the House Energy bill, authorizes the WaterSense Program at EPA. The WaterSense Program is a one-of-a-kind program that promotes smart water use and helps consumers decide which products are water efficient. It promotes smart water use and helps consumers decide which products are water efficient. By authorizing this valuable program, we will make the WaterSense Program permanent and help consumers save water energy and money.

We face great challenges, and one thing is very clear: Our energy future depends on investment in a clean energy economy. We have to be bold, we have to be innovative, and we have to encourage investment in the kind of creativity and enterprise that change the world and move us in the right direction. So today I am proposing a new initiative that will help us make those investments: clean energy victory bonds.

During the First and Second World Wars, our country faced threats we had
never faced before. We rose to the challenge. We gave it everything we had. Everyone contributed. For many, that included investing in victory bonds. They helped pay for the costs of war—$185 billion—over $2 trillion in today’s money. Folks lined up to buy these bonds to help split the American people—to pull together. It was true then, and it is true now.

Today, we face a very different threat, but it also requires us all to come together to face our challenges and to fight. National security experts tell us that rising global temperatures are one of our greatest security concerns. In 2015, global temperature records were shattered—records that were set just the year before. Climate change threatens agriculture, public health, water resources, and weather patterns. We are already feeling the impacts. In New Mexico, temperatures have been rising 50 percent faster than the global average, not just this year or last year but for decades. We have had historic drought. We have had the worst wildfires in our history.

The science is clear: The threat is growing, and time is running out. We must act. Governments are working together to reduce emissions, as we saw in Paris last month. The United States is leading, with commitments from over 140 nations to reduce their emissions. This is providing a major signal in the marketplace and is driving investment in clean energy. Over the next 5 years, 20 nations will double their renewable energy research to $20 billion. Industry is stepping up to the plate as well, pledging to invest at least $2 billion in clean energy startups. This is progress. This is momentum. Our job now is to keep it going.

Investment—public and private—is the key.

My amendment is very simple. It directs the Secretaries of Treasury and Energy to submit a plan to Congress, to develop clean energy victory bonds—bonds all Americans could invest in. These bonds would raise up to $50 billion. That money could leverage up to $150 billion to invest in clean energy technology and would create over 1 million new jobs.

People across the country want to do their part. They want to invest in a clean energy future and to help fight climate change. But most of them can’t buy energy mutual funds with $1,000 or $5,000 minimums. Many can’t afford $25 or $50. We must invest in jobs and healthier communities. Clean energy victory bonds will provide that opportunity. We can do this without any new taxes on individuals or businesses. Bonds are completely voluntary, and they are an opportunity for ordinary Americans who see the challenge and who want to do something about it.

How it works: Like war bonds, clean energy victory bonds would be U.S. Treasury bonds backed by the full faith and credit of the U.S. Government. Investors will earn back their full investment—plus interest that comes from energy savings to the government—and loan repayments for solid projects. The investment would make a critical difference in our energy future.

I urge my colleagues to support this effort. We face a great challenge, and we have a great opportunity. Now is the time for action. The American people want to pitch in and do what they can to fight global warming and to help ensure that the United States leads the world in clean energy economy. Support for this amendment is growing with groups like the American Sustainable Business Council and Green America. Americans are already asking where they can purchase these bonds.

This Energy bill is a good step, but it is a modest step. Our energy and climate challenges demand much more. Again, I thank Chairman MURKOWSKI and Ranking Member CANTWELL. They have managed to move a bipartisan bill through the process and not a single Senator voted against it.

I urge them to accept my amendment and to further strengthen this bill.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tem—The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I appreciate the leaders who have worked on this bill—Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator CANTWELL—and the good work they put into it. I have served on the Energy Committee and now serve on Environment and Public Works. Those are important committees as we wrestle with how to produce energy at lower prices that is healthy for our Nation.

As we consider this Energy Policy Modernization Act, I want to focus on a critical point about public policy and what is a primary goal of the United States of America. We are in a very competitive world. Energy is a big part of how we compete on manufacturing, productivity, and the American people want us to focus on that.

In addition, energy impacts everybody when they fill up their tank and when they drive to work. It is important when it comes to paying the electric bill or the heating bill at home. Is it expensive or inexpensive? The price of energy has a dramatic impact on the quality of life for American people to a degree that is almost impossible to ascertain. When the price of gasoline is cut in half and somebody has a long commute every day, they may have had $200 a month in gasoline bills and now it is $100. They have $100 extra in their pocket. Without taxes, without insurance, and without house payments to be paid out of that, they can use that to take care of their own personal needs—their family, their vacation, going out to eat, or just paying down that credit card that has been run up too high.

For my Republican colleagues I have called for producing more American energy. Our Democratic colleagues have attacked those proposals that would increase the supply of energy, claiming that these efforts are part of some corrupt deal with big oil companies to make them rich at the expense of the taxpayers and the American citizens. That has been the argument. You have heard it for the last 30 years. But is there any correct way to analyze the challenges we face? Is there any way to establish good, sound public policy that will produce more American energy and bring down the cost?

Our Democratic colleagues objected to the Keystone Pipeline. We had a number of votes over a number of years, and finally it passed, and then the President vetoed that. What would the Keystone Pipeline do? It would produce another source of oil for the United States of America. Is that good or bad for big Texas oil companies? It is bad for those companies. It made it harder for them to get a higher price. There is another substantial competitor pouring another supply of oil into the United States.

Is not a corrupt deal to try to benefit some big oil company but a way to make the supply more plentiful, to bring down the cost of energy for American people. That is what we were fighting for, and it baffled me to no end when the President finally vetoed it at the end, after the American people so clearly favored it.

The Federal ban on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico—we had the Deepwater Horizon disaster in 2010. There is no doubt about that. That country really focused on it. Great effort was made to find out how it happened and how we could prevent it in the future. Eventually the Obama administration said they were reopening production in the Gulf—I thought it took longer than necessary.

There is now onsite, according to a government official, a cap, and if the Horizon Disaster were to occur again, that cap within matter of days could be taken out, and it would successfully have stopped that blowout as well. We didn’t have it in advance. We should have had it. But that is fixed, and other things were done, and the President said we are going to open up drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. It wasn’t so. They referred to it as a de facto moratorium. They still couldn’t get approval, and we lost a lot of production that went to other places around the globe.

As production means lower prices. More American oil means more American jobs and more revenue for the Federal and State governments that benefit from that and a smaller wealth transfer from Americans to some foreign country which may be hostile to us and from which we have stopped our oil. We should look to head in that direction.

Additionally, the Obama administration recently placed a moratorium on leasing for coal mining on Federal land. I believe the administration has bypassed Congress and the will of the American people by drafting regulations that seriously constrain the use
of coal as an energy source. We just have to use coal. It is a magnificent energy source. We can do it and are doing it cleaner year after year.

Closely producing coal mines reduces American energy competition and certainly the cost of energy living for Americans and it certainly causes economic dislocation where mine after mine is being closed and United Mine Workers are being laid off. I have always believed in and fought for increased energy production for the American people. This effort for big oil companies but because greater production brings down price. We know now that is true because we have seen a worldwide increase in supplies, which has resulted in a dramatic decrease in the price of oil—an amount below what anyone may have expected. This price collapse affects Americans at the gas pump every day. Gas prices are the lowest they have been since 2008. The national average as of last week was $1.94, a level that it was a few months ago. This has been my goal and the goal of my Republican colleagues and a lot of Members on both sides of the aisle.

In addition, we have increased oil production throughout the country with new fracking technologies. We have had battle after battle over that, but we have never had water supplies that have been impacted adversely by fracking. It is a highly efficient technology also helped collapse the price of oil.

We have had good, bipartisan support for efficiency breakthroughs over the years. They have caused us to have a car that uses a little less gas, houses that are more efficient, and other energy sources that are more efficient. As a result, we have needed less oil. That also helps increase the supply as the demand increases. That has been a positive step toward seeing the collapse in prices.

If Big Oil were so powerful, how is it that the price of oil has gone from $140 a barrel to $30 a barrel? They dictate the price. They can set the price at whatever they want it to be. Not if the price. They can set the price at $1.84. This is half of what it was a few months ago. This is true because we have seen a worldwide collapse in prices.

Yes, wind and solar are getting more competitive, but it still remains for the most part more expensive in most places in the country. I hope it will continue to drop in price. Maybe it will. But I can’t imagine we will see dramatic decreases any time soon. If we were to shift America immediately to a total solar and wind power system, prices would go through the roof. It would hammer Americans far more than we have ever seen before.

I think this bill has many good qualities. It helps improve efficiency and innovation, and maybe we can build on it in a way that will bring America to the point where we can produce more American supply, keep prices down, help revitalize our manufacturing base, and put this country in a position to compete far more effectively in the world marketplace.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes.

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

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I wish to address an issue that the Senator from Alabama touched on before he leaves the floor. I am here to speak about the Florida Everglades, but since the Senator just raised the issue of the Gulf of Mexico, which is certainly an interest of his, just as it is for the Acting President pro tempore, the Senator from Florida can clarify where something and make sure the Senators understand that this part of the Gulf of Mexico, which is off-limits to drilling up to and through 2022, has nothing to do with the Obama administration. It has to do with a law that Senator Martinez and I passed in the last half of the last decade.

Now, why did we do that? Well, it would be nice to say that we were prescient and understood that when the oil spilled into the Gulf of Louisiana—relative to the whole spill, a little oil got into Florida and covered up Pensacola. But Pensacola, Pensacola got into Perdido Bay, Pensacola Bay, Chocatawatchee Bay and went as far east as Panama City Beach; the sugary white beaches that so many people visit were just covered with tar balls—and a result, a whole coastline was lost, not just for Pensacola, Destin, Sandestin, and Panama City Beach but for the entire gulf coast of Florida down to Clearwater Beach, Sarasota, Fort Myers, Naples and for the farmost beaches on the west coast of Florida on the gulf and Marco Island. Now, if that were not enough, I just want the Senator to understand why we are so opposed to drilling off the coast of Florida. Clearly, there is the economic reasons. So much of the tourism got messed up, and it was unhealthy for the critters that get into the estuaries. Here is the ringer, and the Senator from Alabama will especially appreciate this because he has, at times, been my leader on the Senate Budget Committee. The Gulf of Mexico off of Florida is the largest testing and training range in the world for the U.S. military, and every admiral, general, and the Secretaries of all of the branches will simply tell you that we cannot have drilling activities where we are testing and training some of our most sophisticated weapons.

Why do we have all of those training and evaluation activities at Eglin Air Force Base, Tyndall Air Force Base, and the Naval Training Center in Panama City? I didn’t even include Pensacola and Whiting Field and all of the Department of Defense. When we shut down the entire Navy’s testing range of Vieques, off of Puerto Rico, where did the fleet of the U.S. Navy go? They went to the gulf. They will send squadrons coming down to Key West Naval Air Station and stay there for a week or two because when they lift off the runway of Boca Chica, within 2 minutes, they are over a protected area so they can get into their training and testing activities. I will finally say to my friend—and I am not sure that my colleague has ever been able to see this through the eyes of someone who is trying to protect the defense assets in the State of Florida—

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the Senator—

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I will yield to the Senator for a question.

Mr. SESSIONS. The Senator is a great friend, and we have a couple of good battles going on right now where we stand shoulder to shoulder, but for the most part the area that was approved for production was shut down
Mr. President, I come to the floor to talk about the Everglades, and I need to start by saying that the Army Corps of Engineers began releasing water from Lake Okeechobee into the two rivers on either side of the lake. The problem is that we have a dike—not like the one that Mother Nature intended. The dike surrounded Lake Okeechobee, which is the largest lake in Florida, was nothing but a marsh. That is how Mother Nature had it. But after people moved in—and then in the late 1920s, the hurricane that drowned 2,000 people—we came in there and diked all the way around it. Well, the dike is only so structurally sound so that as the water rises in the lake, there is more water pressure on the sides, and if you start getting above 15 feet of depth in the lake, we have to worry about that dike collapsing and all the flooding of the surrounding towns and people and farmlands. So you get the picture.

So the Army Corps of Engineers has to give some relief. So they release water to the east into the St. Lucie River and to the west into the Caloosahatchee River, and as a result, it relieves the dike pressure problem. But since Lake Okeechobee is so polluted, until we can get it cleaned up—and I mean cleaned up—what happens when it goes into these pristine estuaries to the east into the St. Lucie and to the west into the Caloosahatchee, is that you get much too much nutrient content into those estuaries. The salinity in those estuaries goes down, which is harmful to things like oysters and certain fish, and the nitrogen and phosphorous and other pollutants come up. And what happens? Algae grows. When algae grows, it sucks up the oxygen from the water, and it becomes a dead river. The mullet can’t jump because there is no sun, and it becomes a dead river.

Now, that is why it is so necessary that we proceed with the Everglades restoration projects that will help us clean up the pollution in Lake Okeechobee, and at the same time when the dike structure gets threatened, we will move water from there instead of directly into these two estuaries. That is presently being built on the east—a storage area—and it is to be built on the west over near LaBelle on the Caloosahatchee River. Well, it is just another reason why many of us are fighting so hard to complete these Everglades restoration projects, so that impossible decisions that face the Corps of Engineers right now—that either they threaten the dam and hold it back or they release the polluted water and kill the rivers—are not choices that the Corps has to make. It is certainly not a good choice for our environment and for all the people who live in the surrounding area. So Everglades restoration must be pursued aggressively and without delay, and that is why this Senator is going to be introducing legislation tomorrow to expedite that process. It is going to be called the Everglades for the Next Generation Act. It will authorize all of these Everglades restoration projects that the Army Corps of Engineers has deemed ready to begin. It would allow the Corps to begin work on them immediately instead of having to wait for us to pass another water bill. Remember, just just pasted a water bill. When was the last time we passed a water bill? It was 7 years ago. We can’t wait that long. There is too much at stake, and this is why we want to get these all bundled up, so the Army Corps of Engineers can proceed.

The Everglades, for the first three-quarters of the last century, was diked, drained, and deferred, and now we are trying to bring back as much of that plumbing and reverse it so that it will just naturally flow the way Mother Nature had intended it and did for eons and eons. It is a monumental task. We have to look at what we are doing to protect this land that we love that has been called the “river of grass.” We have to do everything we can to protect it. But right now, beware, The National Park Service has in front of it and is evaluating a proposal from a Texas-based company for drilling and fracking activity. This company is looking to conduct a seismic survey—this is just a seismic survey—first on 70,000 acres, but it is just the first part of seismically mapping the entire Big Cypress National Preserve. This is a national preserve of 700,000 acres, and where is it located? It is located right next to the Everglades National Park, which is 1.5 million acres, but it includes hundreds of thousands of other acres that are part of this water discharge area where we are cleaning up that water as it is coming south. The company is not even finishing just a seismic survey. But what do we do have seismic surveys for? To drill. By the way, this is a company in Texas that not only drills for oil, it also fracks for oil. Why in the world would we want this to happen? Why would we spend hundreds of millions and billions of dollars to restore the Everglades and then suddenly turn around and hand it off to a Dan Hughes Company or a Texas wildcatter to go out there and drill—with a wildcatter that is also a fracker.

This Senator has nothing against fracking. Where is our fracking done? It is done in the hard shale rock of the Dakota or Oklahoma or Texas. They go down under high pressure and shoot water and chemicals to break up the shale rock. It is solid rock. What does the State of Florida sit on? It sits on a porous honeycomb of limestone, and that porous rock is filled with freshwater near the surface.

So people wanted to go in there and start doing high-pressure fracking that we do successfully to shale rock, which was done by the Dan Hughes Company. They were given a permit by the State of Florida. Then the county commission of Collier County found out about it and started raising Cain, and suddenly the pressure became too great because of what that fracking would do, with the high-speed chemical going into the porous limestone to the water supply of Florida but to the very foundation of Florida. If you ever look and envision a piece of coral that our divers go down to look for in some of our reefs, and that coral is built up from that beautiful coral, and it builds up. That is very similar to how Florida was formed: Over years, over and over, those corals and shells and skeletons and limestone that created that substructure holds up the State of Florida and contains a bubble of water, which is our Floridian aquifer.

Some people think a seismic survey is no big deal, but watch out. It is just like the proverbial camel getting its nose under the tent. Watch out. That Dan Hughes Company is pretty soon going to be in the tent. Why conduct a huge, prolonged seismic survey if we don’t have the plans to extract the resources that are found? Why would the Federal Government approve risky behavior such as fracking and a brand new type of seismic survey equipment in an area we have spent decades trying to restore? Remember, I said it is the Everglades National Park, 1.5 million acres. Right next to it, to the west, is the Big Cypress National Park, another 700,000 acres. To the north are all of those protected lands of the water recharge area, hundreds of thousands of acres.

All of this is why I wrote to the Interior Secretary asking her agency to complete a very thorough environmental review of this proposal. It is interesting. I wasn’t the only one who responded. The National Park Service told me they had received about 8,000 comments during the public comment period. It seems to me a pretty clear sign that there is a great deal of concern and controversy out there in the public interest and especially those
in Collier County. My colleagues can’t imagine the political backlash when this Dan Hughes oil company—not the one that is applying for the seismic survey but they were a wildcard as well as a fracker, that Dan Hughes company—my colleagues can’t imagine the political backlash that occurred from people of both parties. I can tell my colleagues there was backlash, especially from the Republican county commission in Collier County, when they found out there was fracking going on without their knowing about it and without any of their input into whether it should have been done.

Fortunately, the outcry was so severe that the State of Florida finally revoked the permit and they had to pull out. They had—that company—performed an unauthorized acid stimulation procedure, which is a glorified term for fracking. So we rose up and we fought that. Again, I say to the Senate, this does not have a problem with fracking done environmentally well, but fracking in all of our oil reserves has been done in the shale rock. That is what has made it possible to, in a few years, be able to compete with our domestic production on foreign oil. This Senator has no problem with that. This Senator is thankful for that, but when we try to perform that procedure on a different kind of substrate—a porous limestone filled with water—then we are courting disaster.

I must say, this didn’t stop some in the State Legislature of Florida who are determined to open parts of Florida to companies looking to drill. To make sure all of this local opposition doesn’t get in their way, State legislators in session right now in Tallahassee have proposed a bill that would prohibit a county, a city or any other local government from even allowing fracking to occur by that city or county’s borders. Such a decision, under this proposed legislation, would be up to the State only. It is not hard to figure out how possible to, in a few years, be able to compete with our domestic production on foreign oil. This Senator has no problem with that. This Senator is thankful for that, but when we try to perform that procedure on a different kind of substrate—a porous limestone filled with water—then we are courting disaster.

I think that even in the interim, since I first made that request and it was declined, we see why it is even more important today than it was back in October.

The Obama administration has demonstrated time and time again precisely why we need the decisionmaking in this case as far removed from White House politics as it can possibly be. For example, in October, the President went on television and publicly opened on the results of the ongoing criminal probe. He said, “I don’t think it posed a national security problem.” That is the President of the United States.

Back in October I stood on the floor of the Senate and outlined concerns I had about the evolving scandal involving Secretary Clinton using a private, unsecured email server during her service as Secretary of State. I said at the time that her behavior not only violated the President’s promise to be the most transparent administration in history—I remember him making that statement during his first inaugural address—but it also represented a violation of the public trust. Now we learn of very serious national security concerns which I am going to speak about in just a moment.

Because we know that the Department of Justice is headed by the Attorney General—a political appointee of the President of the United States who serves at the pleasure of the President of the United States, without the advice and consent of the Senate. Consequently, in the event of potential executive branch involvement in the investigation, we need someone to oversee it. We need someone independent of the White House to conduct an investigation—someone independent of the White House to conduct an investigation.

The Obama administration has demonstrated time and time again precisely why we need the decisionmaking in this case as far removed from White House politics as it can possibly be. For example, in October, the President went on television and publicly opened on the results of the ongoing criminal probe. He said, “I don’t think it posed a national security problem.” That is the President of the United States.

I earlier outlined the publicly reported evidence and explained the very real likelihood of criminal violation on the part of Secretary Clinton and her staff. Since then, my concerns—that the information held and sent by Secretary Clinton had 18 emails be- tween herself and the President on her private email server. I don’t know whether the President still feels like this is not a problem, but it is a big problem.

I earlier outlined the publicly reported evidence and explained the very real likelihood of criminal violation on the part of Secretary Clinton and her staff. Since then, my concerns—that the information held and sent by Secretary Clinton contained some of the most sensitive classified information of the U.S. Government—have been confirmed.

Just 2 weeks ago, several of my colleagues received a letter from the inspector general of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the agency whose core mission it is to integrate all the intelligence operations of the U.S. Government. That letter was
sent in response to one from the chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence and the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee about the security of Secretary Clinton’s private email server. What the inspector general said should give us all pause. He said the “SIPRNet” term may be a new one to a lot of people, but it is an acronym that means special access programs. It is the most sensitive classified information known to the U.S. Government, and it is a classification even above “top secret.”

Special access programs are so highly restricted in part because they expose information about programs that are incredibly sensitive to national security, such as how intelligence was gathered in the first place, sources, and methods—some of which would be jeopardized, if not individuals killed if it was known that they were providing a source of intelligence for the U.S. Government. In the case of special access programs from an intelligence agency that means exposing this information would put intelligence collection and, as I said, potentially human sources at great risk.

On Friday, more news regarding the type of information that was on Secretary Clinton’s server was announced. It was widely reported for the first time that the State Department admitted that it had categorized at least 22 emails found on Secretary Clinton’s server as top secret—that is the agency responsible for that said 22 emails were top secret.

I think it is pretty obvious, even based on the public reports—most of which were generated from information produced as a result of a freedom of information lawsuit in Federal court—I think it is pretty obvious that her email server did contain information that jeopardized our national security.

Let me digress for a second to talk about a new development, a new concern raised by this investigation that some of these different classifications of information were contained on her private email server. The fact is, there are three different government email systems. There is the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network—known as the SIPRNet—which is used by the Defense Department and some other government agencies and which is separate and apart from the Internet. It is also separate and apart from the usual government system called the Nonclassified Internet Protocol Router Network, or NIPRNet. The SIPRNet is secret and separate, and the NIPRNet can be used to send emails outside the government on a government email server. Then there is a third type of system known as JWICS. This is the Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communication System, which is even more sensitive than the information contained on the SIPRNet, which was unique, and somehow, as appears to be the case, information got from the SIPRNet or JWICS onto a NIPRNet system or onto a private email server system, it would have to be physically transferred because they are separate and apart and their security is that they are maintained as independent systems.

The concern is that highly classified information from SIPRNet or the super-secure JWICS somehow jumped from those closed systems to the open system and turned up in at least 1,340 Clinton home emails.

In an article in today’s New York Post, the author points to Secretary Clinton’s Chief of Staff Cheryl Mills or Deputy Chiefs Huma Abedin and Jake Sullivan as being responsible because in one of the emails that has been made public, Clinton pressured Sullivan to declassify cabled remarks by a foreign leader.

“Just email it,” Clinton snapped, to which Sullivan replied: “Trust me, I share your experience. Let me make the very best to the unclassified email system, there is no physical way for me to email it.”

In another recently released email, Clinton instructed Sullivan to convert a classified document into an unclassified email attachment by scanning it into an unsecured computer and sending it to her without any classification markings. She also ordered, “Just email it,” to which Sullivan said, “I gotcha! W no identifying heading and send nonsecure,” she ordered.

One gentleman associated with Judicial Watch, which has been one of the entities that have filed the freedom of information litigation which has produced the huge volume of emails contained on Secretary Clinton’s server, said, “Receiving Top Secret SAP intelligence outside secure channels is a mortal sin.”

So, as one can see, these are not trivial matters; these are very serious matters.

It is important to remind folks that this issue was even made worse because of what they were providing a source of intelligence for the United States and it is a serious problem. It is important for us to protect ourselves against our adversaries.

In light of the unprecedented nature of the case and of the multiple conflicts for the Department of Justice, I can see no other appropriate course of action but for Attorney General Loretta Lynch to appoint a special counsel given the conflict of interests for the Department of Justice. That is the administration prefers. That is completely inappropriate, it is outrageous, and it has to stop.

Today this Senator is back on the Senate floor where I started months ago. Today I am mad as hell—and with a greater sense of urgency and with a lot of new information that has come to light. I believe Secretary Clinton has likely violated multiple criminal statutes. For a Secretary of State to send classified information outside the secure channels of the U.S. Government is, in my view, a criminal act.

As with the President’s reckless remarks on television in October, either the White House has information they should not have about the status of this ongoing criminal investigation by the FBI or they are sending a signal to the FBI and the Department of Justice that they want this to go away. It is hard for me to interpret these comments by the President and by his Press Secretary as anything other than trying to influence the FBI and the Department of Justice—what the administration prefers. That is completely inappropriate, it is outrageous, and it has to stop.

I hope the Attorney General seriously considers my request to appoint a special counsel given the conflict of interest and the extraordinary circumstances of this case because in the end it is the right thing to do for the American people. If the U.S. Government—including Congress and the administration—is going to regain the trust and confidence of the American people, they need to know that the public will be protected against our law enforcement officials, such as the FBI and the Department of Justice, will pursue these cases wherever the
facts may lead, that there isn’t a separate set of rules for high government officials, such as the Secretary of State, and you and me.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum be rescinded.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to speak on an amendment that I submitted last week, amendment No. 310, which is a tripartisan amendment to the Energy Policy Modernization Act, which is the pending legislation. I submitted the amendment last week with Senators KLOBUCHAR and KING as my lead cosponsors. The amendment would support the key role that the forests in this country can play in helping to meet our country’s energy needs.

The carbon benefits of forest biomass are clearly established. Yet current policy could end up discouraging—rather than encouraging—investment in working forests, harvesting operations, bioenergy, wood products, and paper manufacturing. Biomass energy is sustainable, responsible, renewable, and economically significant by nearly any measure. Many Federal agencies and forest officials, such as the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the EPA, agree that the United States are already relying on biomass to meet their renewable energy goals. There is a great deal of support for renewable biomass, which creates the benefits of establishing jobs, boosting economic growth, and helping us to meet our Nation’s energy needs. Federal policies across all departments and agencies must remove any uncertainties and contradictions through a clear policy that forest bioenergy is an essential part of our Nation’s energy future.

With these goals in mind, I have offered a very straightforward amendment with a group of colleagues who span the ideological spectrum. They include, as I mentioned, Senators KLOBUCHAR and KING, as well as Senators AYOTTE, FRANKEN, DAINES, CRAPO, and RISCH. I am very pleased to have all of these colleagues cosponsoring my bill.

Our amendment supports the key role that the United States can play in addressing the Nation’s energy needs. The amendment echoes the principles outlined in the June 2015 letter that we sent, which was signed by 46 Senators. As the Acting President pro tempore knows, it is very unusual for 46 Senators on both sides of the aisle to come together in support of a policy.

Specifically, our amendment would require the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Administrator of the EPA to jointly ensure that Federal policy relating to forest bioenergy is consistent across all departments and agencies and that the full benefits of forest biomass for energy conservation and responsible forest management are recognized.

The amendment would also direct these Federal agencies to establish clear and simple policy for the utilization of biomass as an energy source. These include policies that reflect the carbon neutrality of forest bioenergy that recognize biomass as a renewable energy source, that encourage private investment throughout the biomass supply chain, that encourage forest management, forest health, and that recognize State initiatives to use biomass.

The carbon neutrality of biomass harvested from sustainably managed forests has been recognized repeatedly by numerous studies, agencies, institutions, and rules around the world, and there has been no dispute about the carbon neutrality of biomass derived from the residuals of forest products manufacturing and agriculture. Our tripartisan amendment, would help ensure that Federal policies for the use of clean, renewable energy solutions are clear and simple.

I am in conversations with the two managers of this important bill, the ranking member, Senator CANTWELL, about our amendment. I hope that it will be adopted, and I encourage our colleagues to support its adoption.

As I mentioned, Senators KLOBUCHAR and KING joined with me last week in submitting this bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator AYOTTE, Senator FRANKEN, Senator DAINES, Senator CRAPO, and Senator RISCH be added as cosponsors to the amendment as well.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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

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

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator AYOTTE, Senator FRANKEN, Senator DAINES, Senator CRAPO, and Senator RISCH be added as cosponsors to the amendment as well.

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

Ms. GREEN. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest speech.

The Acting PRESIDENT pro tempore. Proceed to the roll.

Mr. President, the roll proceeds to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago, Senate Democrats announced our commitment to end the crushing burden of student loan debt. Our campaign is called “In the Red” because we agree with what President Obama said during his final State of the Union: “No hardworking student should be stuck in the red.”

My special guest at President Obama’s final State of the Union address highlighted exactly this point. Alexis Pflug is a student at UMass Lowell. She is a first-generation college student working on a degree in math. She wants to get a master’s degree so she can become a public school teacher, but she has already taken on over $50,000 in student loan debt.

Think about that, smart, hard-working students who want to build a future for themselves and who want to teach our next generation of kids are being weighed down by the benefits of more education against the fear of an unmanageable debt load.

I don’t think Alexis will quit, but I want my Republican colleagues to explain to me how America is any better off if a young woman doesn’t get a master’s degree and become a first-rate math teacher. How is this country any better off if young people get scared by debt, quit school, and take a job that requires less education?

What Alexis and hundreds of thousands of other people like her end up doing will be affected by decisions we make right in this room. If Congress does nothing, then Alexis and hundreds of thousands of other students just get squeezed harder. The bigger they grow, the decision to give up is just a little closer.

Seventy percent of students now need to borrow money in order to make it through school. Democrats are here to say enough is enough, and that is what this “In the Red” campaign is all about. The Democratic plan has two basic parts: debt-free college and refi-nancing student loans.

There are a lot of ways to get to debt-free college. We can give students the opportunity to graduate from community college without student debt by making it completely tuition free. We can increase Pell grants. We can hold colleges accountable for keeping costs low and providing a high-quality education that will help students get ahead.

We can also cut the outstanding debt. Some student loans are charging 6 percent, 8 percent, 10 percent, and even higher interest rates. We could cut those interest rates right now. Democrats are ready to go, but the Republicans are blocking us every step of the way. Instead of lowering the cost of student loans, they support the status quo, where the U.S. Government turns young people who are trying to get an education into profit centers to bring in more revenue for the Federal Government.

In fact, Congress has set interest rates on all loans that just one slice of those loans—those issued from 2007 to 2012—are now on target to make $66 billion in profits for the U.S. Government. This is obscene. The Federal Government should be helping students get an education, not making a profit off their backs.

The main response from Republicans in Congress has been to claim that refinancing wouldn’t save students that much money. Really? There are more than 40 million people currently dealing with student loan debt. When their interest rates are cut, many will save hundreds of dollars a year and some will save thousands of dollars a year.
That is money that can help someone out of a hole or money to save for a down payment on a home or money to pay off those student loans faster—but Republicans say that money is trivial? What comes next? Do Republicans say let them eat cake.

Where are all those Republicans who think Washington takes too much of our money? These artificially high interest rates are a tax we impose on students to fund government, a tax that keeps young people from buying homes, from starting businesses or for for saving for retirement.

The Republicans may not want to tax billionaires or Fortune 500 corporations, but evidently they don't mind squeezing students who have to borrow money to pay for college.

For 2 years now, Democrats have tried to get a bill through Congress to lower the interest rate on student loans, and for 2 years the Republicans have blocked this bill. As the Republicans have said no, no, no, hardworking people who are just trying to build a life have paid and paid and paid.

So I have to ask the Republicans: What is your idea? What is your plan for how to deal with existing student loan debt? Democrats have put a proposal on the table to make college affordable, but I don't hear anything from the Republicans except “no, no, no.” Well, it is time for change—debt-free college and lower interest rates on student loans. That is what Senate Democrats are fighting for, and together that is what we are going to win.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The OFFICER (Mr. COATS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, on Wednesday of this week, in the dead of the night—at least here—the President intends to have his trade representative sign the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a massive trade agreement, for our Pacific trading partners. It is the product of fast-track, a procedure that cleared the Senate. Presumably at some point then be advanced to the Congress for approval. The advancement will be the result of the President filing implementing legislation that will move the agreement forward.

Even though the President regards this deal as one of his signature accomplishments, he is not making the trip. Instead, he has deputized Trade Representative Michael Froman to sign the agreement in New Zealand on behalf of the United States. New Zealand is a long way away.

We haven't much talk about this event. The reason is that the American people are very uneasy about it. The American people are not happy with this agreement. The American people, I believe, fully oppose it and would oppose it even more so if they knew more about it, and they will learn more about it has been an effort not to talk about it, to keep the language low, and to see if it can't be brought up some way and passed. I think that would be a mistake.

This trade agreement is 5,564 pages long. The president on my desk, so I would like to point my colleagues to examples of what the deal will do.

The American Automobile Policy Council recently issued a report which stated the TPP would threaten 90,000 American automotive jobs because of its failure to include strong currency protections. This is just one of the problems we have. It has to be dealt with. Currency manipulation is exceedingly dangerous. It has very large impacts, say $20,000, $30,000, $40,000 automobile. We are talking about thousands of dollars difference through currency.

American industries across the board are beginning to oppose TPP. Many believe that all of the businesses are for it. But that is not the case. Many American manufacturers would see their future even more problematic under the TPP.

Ford released a statement opposing the deal. They argued that the TPP is not adequately open and does not adequately open foreign markets to U.S. goods.

We are going to further open our markets to foreign goods, but we are not going to make the kind of progress that must be made to help our exports, which is why we are told this agreement should pass—because it is going to open up markets for us. Ford says no.

Last week Ford announced they were leaving the Japanese market—Japan being the key country in this agreement—because they say that Japan has nontariff barriers that have limited their ability to sell cars in Japan.

For example, in 2015, Ford sold fewer than 5,000 cars in Japan. Ford is an international manufacturer. They sell large numbers of automobiles in Europe, in Mexico, in South America, but they cannot penetrate the Japanese market. Hyundai, a superb South Korean manufacturer, also not too long ago gave up trying to sell automobiles in Japan because of nontariff factors, constructed by Japan, that make this happen.

Given this evidence, one would hope that the United States would be able to negotiate a deal that would support manufacturing and American workers, but that is not the case with the TPP.

This is the World Bank's evaluation. The World Bank has concluded that Japan would see an extra economic growth of 2.7 percent by 2030 while the United States can expect only four-tenths of 1 percent of additional economic growth.

The White House's own study—a study they cite with pride, although they omit many of the facts that are set forth in that report—conducted by the Peterson Institute for International Economics claimed that the TPP will decrease the growth of manufacturing in the United States by 2 percent by 2030. In other words, without this deal, manufacturing in the United States would grow 20 percent more than if we signed the TPP.

Without this deal, are we better off? Manufacturing jobs are high-paying jobs. Manufacturing jobs demand resources from the community, and all kinds of people support those manufacturing jobs. The products that Americans manufacture are sold in the United States, around the world, and money is brought home, and it pours into that community to buy more products, more machines, more gasoline, more electricity, and to pay the workers who work in the plants.

You have to have manufacturing in this world. A nation cannot get by without it. A nation that has the greatest economy in the world, a nation that has the greatest military in the world must maintain a manufacturing base.

According to the Peterson Institute for International Economics, this 20 percent reduction in potential growth would result in around 120,000 fewer jobs than would have been created otherwise. That is a very, very serious—120,000 high-paying, good jobs in manufacturing plants. But that is the President's study. That is his group that they got to give the results he wanted. Trust me—and we are going to show this over time—the predictions for these trade agreements have fallen massively short of what the administration has promised.

However, a more critical study by the economists at Tufts University, the prestigious and prestigious Tufts University recently found that TPP would cost up to 400,000 jobs in the United States. We are supposed to sign this deal, and it is supposed to make America better, and it is going to cost us jobs. That is what the other deals have done. I think this one is likely to do the same. I wish it weren't so.

We need better trade deals. We don't need to enter into trade deals that don't protect the legitimate interest of American workers and manufacturers. Our trading partners, good countries, good people—Japan, South Korea, Philippines, and others—are tough trading partners. They are merchants. They are not free traders, really. They are out to maximize their exports, and the export large number of manufacturers. The United States already has trade agreements with major Asian nations. We have many of them now. How have they turned out? Shouldn't we study
that? Has anyone talked about that? Have we had hearings on how well they worked out before? No.

We haven't really looked into the effects of previous agreements because we don't want to talk about that. What we will say in the Senate and the House of Representatives is that trade deals are good. If anybody has a trade deal, be for it. That is not a sound way to proceed.

South Korea is a good ally of the United States. It is a good country, but they are tough competitors. Our trade deficit with South Korea last year from January through November was $26 billion, and by the end of the year, that country alone will be about $32-plus billion. They have not published numbers yet, but estimates suggest that the 2015 trade deficit will be 15 percent higher than the previous year—2014. Is that a good deal for the United States?

Trade deals are good. If anybody has a trade deal when they realized it wouldn't become law, that would push back and allow us to resist currency manipulation. We got to vote on that one, but they made sure it didn't get on the bill that is going to become law—the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. It was a show vote. The President was not going to execute it, and he threatened to veto it.

The Wall Street Journal, on November 5, wrote:

"Mexico, Canada and other countries signaled that they were open to the [currency] deal when they realized it [would not] include binding currency rules that could lead to trade sanctions through the TPP. These countries want to be able to manipulate their currency. Obviously, they agreed to go forward with the trade deal because they knew there were no binding currency rules. In fact, last year the Japanese Finance Minister said that "there [will] not be any change" in Japan's currency policy because of the provisions included in the TPP.

Some milk toast language got in the trade agreement. The Senators were able to say they voted for a bill that had teeth to it, but that was in a separate bill that would not become law. My currency provisions in the bill, the language with real teeth, was stripped out and he threatened to veto it. It is never going to become law. But the agreement included alongside the TPP is meaningless. Japan and others say it is not going to make any change in their currency policy. Japan significantly devalued the yen again recently. China devalued its currency by 6 percent last summer alone, and many expect they will devalue it even further.

I have to say, it is time for the United States of America to understand something. We are the largest economy in the world. We have the greatest military in the world. We need to demand to have access to our markets—and whose exports to the United States are critical to their economic well-being—don't get to do this if they are not playing by the rules. They don't get to manipulate their currencies. They don't get to subsidize their manufacturers, and we are not going to allow them to use nontariff barriers to prohibit the imports of American products.

That is what we need from the leadership in this country—not an agreement that allows continued manipulation of currency and that does not deal effectively with the nontariff barriers and subsidies these countries use to take market share away from U.S. companies.

What happens to an American business? U.S. Steel just closed some production and laid off 1,000 workers in Birmingham last year. Is that plant going to reopen? We would like to think so, but I doubt it. Once these American plants that get no support from their government to compete abroad are closed, they don't reopen. Our competitors know that, and they take market share. They get to sell more in the United States and bring home strong American dollars.

I think it is time for us to slow down on this. We are going to continue to look at how these trade agreements have worked. I don't think they have worked very well for the American worker. They haven't done very well for American manufacturing. I think few would dispute that this Nation can be prosperous without manufacturing. One time they said you could do it with software and the service economy and a high-tech economy. Saturday's Barron's did a report on a study that has been done about our high-tech companies, which we are so proud of and hear so much talk about. What about the job prospects they have for this year? Are they going to add more jobs to high-tech computer companies in America? No, this analysis said that the information technology companies in America would reduce employment by 330,000 people this year.

I have to tell you that if we lose automobile manufacturing and steel plants, these people are not going to work in computer companies. That is one of the biggest misrepresentations I have ever heard. There is no economic recovery. People are concerned about their future. There is an election going on out there. People are concerned about their future. They need to know about the trade agreement. They need to be asking their Representatives and their Presidential candidates how they feel about it. Which side are you going to be on? Let's hear the reasons why you are for or against this agreement. After they hear that, I think they will be in a better position to decide how to cast their vote.
for helping us to move through so many different proposals by our colleagues. We were able to clear some of these amendments by voice votes, and, hopefully, we will be able to move forward over the next 24 hours on this bill by getting some work done.

One of the things we are going to talk about this week is energy efficiency, which is creating jobs and making our economy more competitive by holding down the cost of energy. Many of us have known for centuries that the efficient use of energy has been a very important factor in our economy. Last week I mentioned that the Northwest economy was built on a hydrosystem. Cheap hydropower has worked for us over and over again, as companies that use a lot of electricity have moved to the Northwest. We have stored everything from apples to terabytes of data because of the huge efficiencies that we were able to pull off with cheap hydropower.

As my colleague from Alaska will say, so much high in Alaska and she wants to make sure we are making it more affordable and enabling distributed generation, as she just mentioned earlier today. Ensuring that we have a microgrid to do that is a key component of how the states successfully diversify their economy. As we debate this bill on the Senate floor, each of us is thinking about the regions of our country we represent and how to make sure we are dealing with electrical power.

One important thing I wanted to discuss is that in 2007, for the first time in our history, the United States actually delinked economic growth from energy use. Now, our economy is producing more in goods and services, yet it is using less in electricity. The chart behind me demonstrates this.

This is a very important point because it shows that we can still grow our economy while consuming and using less energy. This is important because if you are a homeowner and want to use the energy in your home more efficiently, while still having many apps and devices that require electricity but make your life easier. It is also important for businesses. As U.S. businesses compete in a global economy, they want to produce goods and services and do so in a cost-effective manner. So the more you can drive down energy costs without having to drive down consumption.

If we want to continue to compete in that global economy, we must continue to improve our energy productivity, and that is exactly what title I of the bill does. The Energy Policy Modernization Act will help ensure that the nation is eliminating energy waste and making improvements in new technologies that will improve our competitiveness for the 21st century.

Energy efficiency is the cheapest and most affordable energy resource because it is typically about one-third of the cost of new production; that is, by saving energy at home, by using what we already have more efficiently—and there are all sorts of smart ways to do this—you can actually spend only one-third of the cost of what it would take to get new production online.

In the last 40 years, since the oil embargo, energy efficiency became an integral part of U.S. energy policy. We have learned that efficiency is not like most other resources that are depleted and consumed. Instead, we found that as we keep making progress on energy efficiency, we have created new technologies. They have become the most cost-effective ways to cut waste and the most cost-effective ways to take the “low-hanging fruit” available in front of us and help businesses and homeowners alike.

There are two examples of this that we, as the Federal Government, had a hand in: No. 1, automobiles and No. 2, lighting technology. Now both of these were in the previous 2007 Energy bill. Since then, average automobile fuel economy has improved dramatically. In 1978, it averaged 26 miles per gallon in 2016. Thanks to the CAFE standards in effect. That was something we pushed here that made our automobiles more efficient.

With respect to lighting, the latest light-emitting diode, or LED, technology is 6 to 7 times more efficient in energy consumption than traditional incandescent lights and can last at least 25 times longer. In 2012 alone, nearly 50,000 LEDs were installed in the United States and is estimated $675 million in annual electricity costs.

What we are saying here is that we want to continue to move forward on energy efficiency. It is saving money for businesses and homeowners. We also want to continue the advances of these energy-efficiency technologies and make sure that we are making the right investments. So I want to remind my colleagues that there are going to be several ways in which we are going to try to build on this progress. Energy efficiency must be a major part of our policies here, and I know many States across the country are also making investments in this.

So tomorrow I expect us to have a vote on an amendment to establish a Federal energy efficiency resource standard, or an EERS.

Since its establishment, the Department of Energy has implemented successful programs to develop new technologies and promote best practices within the major sectors of our energy economy. Yet many States have used their role to also establish energy efficiency standards. Behind me, you will see the number of States that have already developed these incentives for investments in energy efficiency by giving utilities an incentive to invest in low-cost, energy efficiency programs before investing in more expensive new energy production. In the past decade, these States across the United States have adopted such initiatives—25 States with energy efficiency resource standards. Why is that important? Well, once you start down the road of energy efficiency and consume more grid more efficient, which is something California has done. California made a huge investment as a marketplace for energy efficiency, and now they can continue to grow as an economy using less energy. They have continued to grow as an economy yet use less energy. In fact, the 19 States with the greatest energy savings in the Nation all have energy efficiency resource standards.

So, to me, this is an area of the bill that I think we would like to improve. States are the laboratories of democracy, and because 25 of them have demonstrated the benefits of this policy, I believe it is time the Federal Government should also establish a national energy efficiency resource standard. My colleague Senator Frank from Minnesota will be offering an amendment to do just that on this bill. The Federal Government could require States to do their part in reducing the waste of resources and increasing our Nation’s energy productivity by establishing an energy efficiency resource standard that would promote improving productivity. In everything from cost-effectiveness in new buildings to production capacity. The proposed EERS would set a modest, easily achievable energy savings target that electrical and natural gas utilities can already be in half of these States. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy estimates that implementing the Federal EERS would save $130 billion, or about $1,000 per household by 2040. The adoption of this EERS amendment would mean more than triple the energy efficiency savings benefits of the act before us today. A Federal EERS would not only save every American money by reducing the energy bill, but also help strengthen our Nation’s economic competitiveness by improving our energy’s productivity and maintaining our leadership in the commercialization of these products.

This is something I learned during my time in the private sector. Anytime you can make something that is of value to everybody more efficient, such as energy, you are on the winning path; that is, if you become the experts of the commodity. You are making everything more efficient, whether you are talking about development in China, in Europe or in other parts of Asia, the fact that we are experts on energy efficiency by deploying this here in the United States gives us a winning hand on deploying it around the world. Anytime you can be more efficient, you are also being more cost effective and saving dollars. That is what we are pushing in this bill. It will move us forward on energy efficiency.
also has the ability to focus on some of the cleaner sources of energy that we have been discussing too.

The Federal Government has had a history of promoting energy efficiency, and the government itself, being the single greatest energy user in the Nation, could benefit from this. We hope that when we look at the Federal Government, we will also be talking about energy efficiency products. One of the examples of how Congress directed the Federal Government to lead was by the enactment of section 433 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. This provision established a Federal leadership role in the development of high-efficiency, low-emission commercial buildings by requiring the Federal Government to phase out the use of fossil fuel energy in Federal buildings and major renovations by 2030.

The U.S. Government, as the single largest occupant of Federal buildings in the Nation, should continue, I believe, to demonstrate its energy efficiency as well. I know in the Pacific Northwest we have the Bullitt Center, which is the greenest commercial building in the United States. We have a hospital in Issaquah that is one of the most efficient hospitals in the United States, and we have other businesses that are developing these buildings that are smart buildings that are driving down the costs. What does that mean? It means that businesses can invest in R&D or into the manufacturing of goods or into the promotion of ideas instead of spending it on energy costs.

For us in the Pacific Northwest, someone might ask: With the cheapest kilowatt rates in the Nation, why would everybody spend so much time on energy efficiency? We spend so much time on energy in the Northwest because we know it pays dividends. We know it gives us a competitive edge, and we choose to put technology in the driver's seat with technology. Even though we have the cheapest kilowatt rates, we continue to make an investment.

These buildings were designed by architects to show what is now technologically possible and to feature state-of-the-art ground-source heating and cooling, both photovoltaic and thermal solar energy collection, and computers that automatically adjust the building systems to help them comfortable and efficient. Some buildings have an elevator that converts kinetic energy from braking into usable electricity. All of these things are about cutting-edge technology. The Bullitt Center and other buildings like it in the United States drive the rate that it is technologically feasible and cost effective to phase out the use of fossil fuel generated energy in new Federal buildings within the next 14 years, as required by current law.

These are other radical policies. These laws, which were passed in 2007, are things that I know people here would like to strike and repeal. Let me mention another one we will likely hear about, which is the SAFE Act, offered by our colleagues from Georgia and Colorado. The Senators likely will offer this bill for sensible accounting to value energy. This bipartisan amendment was included in the Shaheen-Portman bill that would help homeowners account for the energy efficiency of their home during the mortgage and underwriting process. The average homeowner pays more than $2,000 annually for the energy in their home. After the mortgage, this is typically the second largest cost in buying and owning a home, but it is not accounted for in the mortgage underwriting process. Many of us have gone through this process of buying a home and getting a mortgage. So why can't a homeowner, on a voluntary basis, have their home audited for its energy efficiency characteristics and have that information accounted for in the mortgage underwriting process? This is what Senators Isakson, Bennet, Shaheen, and Portman have introduced in an amendment, and I think it will be one of the things we will hear about tomorrow and one of the potential votes we will be having.

A recent study from the University of North Carolina found that owners of more efficient homes are less likely to default on their mortgages. Adopting this amendment creates an incentive for homeowners to invest in energy efficiency improvement because those energy efficiency improvements will be accounted for in the underwriting process for their homes. Organizations as diverse as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Alliance to Save Energy, and the U.S. Green Building Council all support this amendment. So this is another idea that is not in the underlying bill that we will be discussing.

Today we are here with many amendments this week to this legislation. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their hard work and for continuing to move forward with my colleague, the Senator from Alaska, Ms. Murkowski, and myself in getting through the next couple of days of these policies.

I know my colleagues want to continue to discuss this legislation, as I do, but we also know there is a limited time that we will be able to be on this floor and get legislation to bring any amendments to the floor tonight that they would like to have considered, if they haven't already filed them today.

We need to continue to build on the successes of the last 40 years to continue to cut our energy waste, and de-link our economic growth from energy use so we can make sure we can continue to grow in the most cost-effective way, and continue to produce the jobs that these new renewables and energy efficiency improvements are creating for us. I think this legislation will help give us another foothold toward a future economy that is cleaner, more efficient, and a better driver of U.S. competitiveness on an international global basis for the types of energy solutions that we think will help the world as well.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senate is currently considering a bipartisan energy bill that could lead America on a pathway to rebuilding our Nation's economy in this century. It has been 9 years since we passed an energy bill and a lot of things have changed. This bill is one of the few pieces of legislation that contains important provisions to build domestic clean energy sources, strengthen energy efficiency measures, and modernize our electric grid.

This bill also represents a commitment to basic science at the Department of Energy. I believe it can and should do more than what the original bill proposes. We need more robust support for basic science research—the kind of research that costs too much and takes too long for any company to take the risk of conducting. We need to invest in medical and basic science research. The investment will pay off for generations to come.

I cochair the Senate National Lab Caucus, and I know that if we invest in research in the National Labs, it will lead to breakthroughs that will help keep America competitive and create good-paying jobs.

At Fermi National Accelerator Lab in Illinois, the development of superconducting wire technology enabled the large-scale manufacture of the magnetic resonance imaging—or MRI—machines doctors use today. Sometimes it is hard for the scientists and engineers and leaders at these labs to explain in simple words what they are doing and why it is important. This is an example. They were working on a wire technology that probably didn't mean much certainly to me or to many people, but when they finished, they explained it in a wonderful new way of imaging our bodies to detect illnesses and plot a way to cure them.

In the 1970s, the scientists building Fermilab's particle accelerator drove cutting-edge research in superconducting wire fabrication. Rather than patent these advances, Fermilab made them freely available to the public and private sector, opening the door to large-scale superconducting wire manufacturing by private industry.

Since MRI machines rely on superconducting wire, this made commercialization possible.

Today, MRI machines are widely used to image the human body. Using
Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, a Republican from Tennessee; and Senator PATTY MURRAY, a Democrat from the State of Washington. They really stepped up when it came to NIH research—the National Institutes of Health. In this year's budget, we are going to have virtually 2 percent real cut in NIH. I am really concerned with $2 billion of new money going to NIH. I am willing to stake my future in the Senate and tell you that investment at the NIH this year in research will ultimately lead to breakthroughs that will save lives. This is another area which is equally promising.

I remember visiting the Department of Energy a few months back with Ernest Moniz, our Secretary, whom I respect very much. I told him the story of how I am committed to NIH's basic biomedical research. I said one example is Alzheimer's.

I was surprised when my staff said one American is diagnosed with Alzheimer's every 67 seconds. I said: Go back to the drawing board. That can't be true.

They went back and came back and said: No, Senator, that is exactly right. One in every 67 seconds on average, an American is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.

I told that story to Ernest Moniz, the Secretary of Energy, and I said that is why we need this NIH research.

He said: Senator, my Office of Science in the Department of Energy is developing the techniques so that we can detect Alzheimer’s in living human beings.

Currently, the only confirmation of the diagnosis is confirmed in autopsies. If we can look at the early onset of Alzheimer’s, we can better respond to it. That is why, if one is interested in curing diseases, in finding ways to avoid expensive surgery, in reducing the cost of medicine but still protecting America, this generation of lawmakers needs to make a commitment to science research.

I have already thanked my colleagues by name who have done so much for the NIH, and I will be offering an amendment with Senator ALBERT of Tennessee that is going to help increase our commitment to research in the Energy bill which is before us. The 4 percent growth in the bill is good, but unfortunately it does not protect against inflation. What we need are more breakthroughs over inflation in this Department. I can guarantee that the breakthroughs that will come from this research will make life better and create more opportunities for people living in this country. We need to have sustained funding to ensure that cutting-edge research can bear fruit, and we are asking that they maintain this growth period of 5 percent real growth for 5 years.

Congress needs to help America's best and brightest do what they do best. This amendment represents an investment that will save lives.

I will say parenthetically that this morning I made a trip to Atlanta, GA. Every 2 or 3 years, I go down to visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This agency is not well known or well understood by most Americans. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA, is the first line in America's national defense when it comes to public health threats.

We now have a mosquito called the Zika mosquito spreading a virus in Brazil to the point where women are being warned that now is not the time to become pregnant. If those mosquitoes should sting you and if some of the virus gets into your body, it can cause a miscarriage or some terrible birth defects in the baby. That is how dangerous it is. The frontline of defense in the United States is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA.

As I walked through there and met with the pathologists, the doctors, veterinarians, and others who work there, I was struck by this amazing array of extraordinary talent, people who were excited about their work, about making our country and the world safer. The Zika virus, of course, is our current threat, but there are many more. They faced the first SARS outbreak and Luckily it did not spread beyond the few countries where it was first reported. So when we talk about investments in research by the U.S. Federal Government, it is research that is good for us and our families, and it is good for the world.

I will be offering this amendment probably this week with Senator ALEXANDER and others to increase this commitment to research. It is an investment that will lead to new breakthroughs in this bill on energy, in scientific discoveries, energy innovation, and national security. This amendment strengthens the bill before us and helps us move to our 21st-century economy in the world. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The absence of a quorum is so ordered.
the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the above amendments in the order listed, with no second-degree amendments in order prior to the votes and a 60-vote affirmative threshold required for adoption; further, that the time between 2:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. be equally divided in the usual form and that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to each vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENTS NO. 2970, 2989, 2991, 3019, 3066, 3137, and 3056, as modified, to amendment No. 2953.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. We are now ready to process a handful of amendments with a series of voice votes.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following amendments be called up and reported by number:

Gardner amendment No. 2970; Reed amendment No. 2989; Inhofe amendment No. 2991; Daines amendment No. 3119; Murphy amendment No. 3019; Hirono amendment No. 3066; Udall amendment No. 3137; and Flake amendment No. 3056, as modified.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the amendments by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Alaska [Ms. MURKOWSKI], for others, proposes amendments numbered 2970, 2989, 2991, 3019, 3066, 3137, and 3056, as modified, to amendment No. 2953.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 2970

(Purpose: To modify a provision relating to energy management requirements)

In section 1006, strike subsection (a) and insert the following:

(a) ENERGY MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS.—Section 546(f)(4) of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 8258f(f)(4)) is amended by striking “may” and inserting “shall”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2989

(Purpose: To ensure that funds for research and development of electric grid energy storage are used efficiently)

Section 2301 is amended by adding at the end the following:

(1) USE OF FUNDS.—To the maximum extent practicable, in carrying out this section, the Secretary shall ensure that the use of funds to carry out this section is coordinated among different offices within the Grid Modernization Initiative of the Department and other programs conducting energy storage research.

AMENDMENT NO. 2991

(Purpose: To modify provisions relating to brownfields grants)

(The amendment is printed in the Record of January 27, 2016, under “Text of Amendments.”)

AMENDMENT NO. 3019

(Purpose: To promote the use of reclaimed refrigerants in Federal facilities)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 1020. PROMOTING USE OF RECLAIMED REFRIGERANTS IN FEDERAL FACILITIES.

(a) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of General Services shall issue guidance relating to the procurement of reclaimed refrigerants to service existing equipment of Federal facilities.

(b) Preference.—The guidance issued under subsection (a) shall give preference to the use of reclaimed refrigerants, on the conditions that—

(1) the refrigerant has been reclaimed by a person or entity that is certified under the laboratory certification program of the Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute; and

(2) the price of the reclaimed refrigerant does not exceed the price of a newly manufactured ( virgin) refrigerant.

AMENDMENT NO. 3066

(Purpose: To modify a provision relating to the energy workforce pilot grant program)

In section 3101(c), insert paragraph (2) and insert the following:

(2) work with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or veteran service organizations recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code, to transition members of the Armed Forces and veterans to careers in the energy sector.

AMENDMENT NO. 3137

(Purpose: To modify a provision relating to a Secretarial order)

On page 302, strike lines 6 through 9 and insert the following:

(2) SECRETARIAL ORDER NOT AFFECTED.—This subtitle shall not apply to any mineral described in Secretarial Order No. 3324, issued by the Secretary of the Interior on December 3, 2012, in any area to which the order applies.

AMENDMENT NO. 3066, AS MODIFIED

(Purpose: To include other Federal departments and agencies in an evaluation of potentially duplicative green building programs)

Strike section 1020 (relating to an evaluation of potentially duplicative green building programs within the Department of Energy) and insert the following:

SEC. 1020. EVALUATION OF POTENTIALLY Duplicative GREEN BUILDING PROGRAMS.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—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 Budget and Accounting Act, as modified. Under subsection (a), the term “service” shall be defined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(B) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “service” has the meaning defined in section 301 of the Department of Education; and

(C) describe the intended market for each applicable program; and

(2) APPLICABLE PROGRAM.—The term “applicable program” means any program that is:

(A) 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” and

(B) administered by—

(i) the Secretary; and

(ii) any other Federal department or agency.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 2970, 2989, 2991, 3119, 3019, 3066, 3137, AND 3056, AS MODIFIED, TO AMENDMENT NO. 2953

(THE SENATE)
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in 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.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the anniversary of the signing of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.

Lilly Ledbetter was an inspiring woman and a courageous trailblazer. She fought the system in her workplace and the courtroom. She was a longstanding and loyal employee at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company for 19 years. But then she found out that Goodyear thought she was worth less than her male counterparts. A jury found Goodyear owed her almost $400,000 in backpay, but the Supreme Court said that she was too late. When Justice Ginsburg read her dissent from the bench, she called for Congress to fix it, so we went to work.

It has been over 7 years since we passed this historic legislation. I was so proud to stand in the Senate to keep the courthouse doors open to sue for discrimination. This wasn’t an easy road. When we lost the first vote on this bill, I called upon the women in the Senate and across America to put their lipstick on, square their shoulders, and suit up to fight for an American revolution.

We did just that, and the Lilly Ledbetter Act became the first bill that President Obama signed into law in 2009.

Passing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was a big accomplishment—but our work is far from done. We need to finish what we started by passing the Paycheck Fairness Act. The Lilly Ledbetter Act kept the courthouse door open, but the Paycheck Fairness Act will make it more difficult to discriminate in the first place.

Women are tired of being paid crumbs. Women still only make 79 cents for every dollar a man makes, and it is even worse for women of color—African-American women earn 62 cents on the dollar, and Hispanic women earn 54 cents. By retirement, the average woman loses $431,000 to the pay gap. This affects Social Security, pensions, and retirement security. Everybody says, ‘Oh you’ve come a long way’, but women have only gained 20 cents in 50 years.

We will not take no for an answer. We will continue to demand equal pay for all. We are going to change the Federal law books, so women get change in their family checkbooks.

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, as National School Choice Week came to a close last week, I want to highlight the important role school choice plays in our education system in Arkansas and across the country.

I am the proud graduate of Arkansas’s public schools and the son of a public school teacher and principal. Throughout my life, I was blessed with wonderful parents, teachers, and coaches who taught the skills, knowledge, and values needed for success in the workforce. Unfortunately, not all children have the same experience.

Dardanelle High School was the right choice for me, but the local public school isn’t always the right fit for everyone. Too many children aren’t receiving the attention or education they deserve. This is especially true in areas with poor performing schools. But it is not always about the quality of education; sometimes local schools cannot make adequate accommodations for a child’s religious beliefs or personal needs. Quite simply, one size fits all isn’t the key to success for education.

That is why I believe in school choice. Parents—not politicians and bureaucrats—know what is best for their children. We should empower them and ensure they have access to alternatives to the traditional public system. This includes home schooling, charter schools, and private and religious schools. That way, every child will receive the type of education that best fits their learning style.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 458.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, I move further on some more votes to these matters so tomorrow we can make good progress on this legislation. I am fully aware that the Paycheck Fairness Act is scheduled to come up tomorrow. We are making amendments and set votes for these matters so tomorrow we can make good progress on this legislation.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I so appreciate our colleagues’ cooperation with the work being done here.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate provide the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I know of no further debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be made in the name of the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now vote on these amendments en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on these amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, if I could just say, I appreciate our colleagues working in such a bipartisan fashion to work through these eight amendments and set votes for these amendments tomorrow. We are making good progress on this legislation. I hope our colleagues will give attention to these matters so tomorrow we can move forward on some more votes to clear up the remaining issues before us on this bill.

I appreciate all our colleagues working together in earnest and the chair of the committee to make sure we have made this progress so far today. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Hearing no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the amendments en bloc.

The amendments (Nos. 2970, 2989, 2991, 3119, 3019, 3066, 3137, and 3056, as modified) were agreed to en bloc.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

February 1, 2016

S421
To countless families across America, school choice means accessing the best possible education for their children. By providing school choice, we can promote innovation in our schools, provide more personalized education for our children, and improve racial and economic disparities in educational outcomes.

I am pleased to have celebrated National School Choice Week and the improvements that school choice has brought to our country.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VERMONT ESSAY FINALISTS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask of the Union'' essay contest conducted by Vermont High School students as part of the sixth annual “What is the State of the Union’’ essay contest conducted by my office. These finalists were selected from nearly 800 entries. These material follows:

SARA MANFREDI, MILTON HIGH SCHOOL (FINALIST)

Before I begin this address, I would like to take a moment to thank all of you for being here today. But, these must not only be our enemies, they must conquer in order to make our home safer, as well as more equal, for both ourselves, and the generations to come.

In recent years, it has come to attention of our government that there have been over 400,000 untested rape kits stuck in backlog all around the country. One precipit held over 5,000 in backlog, all untested, most cases left without any trial. How dare we do this to those hundreds upon thousands of victims? Who are we to deny them any sense of safety or justice? These facts have done nothing more than allow rapists to get out of any sort of punishment. This horrific trend must be stopped, and can only be stopped if this untested rape kit backlog can finally be tested, and the victims of these sexual assaults can finally have justice. The issue with this is that many of these local jurisdictions do not have the money to process these tests, because of the innate lack of funding, but many others are not out of cash. I am wondering if we are going to offer funding through federal grants to these precincts, so that long backlogs can finally be tested, and the victims of these horrible crimes finally have their justice. To ensure this money is used to test these rape kits, I will work with Congress to pass a law into action that will give precipit a time constraint in which they must test these kits first, most likely within 72 hours. By having this deadline set into place, I hope that this will graduate to a national concern. The United States will find itself in trouble if solutions are not quickly found to ISIS, the price of higher education, and acts of racism. If action is not taken against ISIS, the threat they cause to the U.S. is going to continue, we need to invest more into it if we want to get it done. Unfortunately, however, U.S. is currently spending $40 billion on fighting ISIS annually. This is a huge sum of money, but of the $1 trillion that the U.S. had for discretionary spending in 2015, ISIS should be 6% of that. The U.S. has a responsibility to help with the fight against ISIS, and the government should spend more money to disrupt this organization because it is a threat to everyone, everywhere, and will not go away unless we make them.

The U.S. should also spend more money on educational initiatives so more students are accessible to the average student, because it is important for getting good jobs and it costs far too much. The average cost to go to a private 4-year college is $55,000, a lot of students who can’t afford that price for four years. Since this price is so high, and those who can’t afford it simply can’t go, it leaves many people who are needed for higher paying jobs. This number is far too high. This even gives some doubt about getting their degrees, simply from the fear of debt. It is also very sad that because of financial health is not to be blamed. What is to blame is American gun laws. These men were able to commit these heinous crimes because of how accessible guns are to anyone. We need to do something about this. We restrict and complicate. If we are to ensure the safety of the American public, we must ensure that only those who are specifically trained to use a gun, those who are able to handle one and not go awry are allowed to carry one. Police officers and military personnel are allowed to carry handguns at all times for their jobs. Rifles shall be heavily restricted as well, only distributed to those who undergo an extreme vetting process and ensure that they will not become the next person to kill innocent bystanders. I just want the American public to be safe. I do not want someone to be able to argue that maybe the victims of these preventive crimes. I only wish the best for us. Thank you.

WILLIAM MARTIN, MOUNT ABRAHAM UNION HIGH SCHOOL (FINALIST)

The United States is being cornered by many problems, of shapes and magnitude, from every direction. These issues need more attention and they will not be solved unless action is taken against them. Many of these situations will only get worse the longer we put them off. There are a variety of problems ranging from climate change to healthcare and we should be looking for a solution for all of them. The three issues that the U.S. should put most of its focus on, however, is the threat from ISIS, the price of higher education, and, tragically, acts of racism, especially those in police shootings.

The United States should spend more money to prevent ISIS from growing and disrupting more. ISIS is a danger to the U.S., as well as other countries around the world and their citizens. Terrorism could also continue for a long time if we do not get rid of ISIS. I recently came onto the world stage after September 11, 2001. In a single day, a small group of people managed to kill thousands. Before this, al-Qaeda truly started in the 1990s. This shows how long these groups have managed to continue, despite our efforts, which means we need to do more. Not only do we need to get rid of the organizations like ISIS that are here now, but we have to provide a stable system to make sure these types of groups don’t return, or we could risk another disaster. ISIS will actually pay foreign fighters $1,000 a month, which is how they get many of their recruits. Unfortunately, ISIS has a wide reach in many different parts of the American public, so we need to invest more in the number of police officers and military personal.

The U.S. needs to make college easier for everyone, with the national backlog will gradually dwindle away. By having this deadline set into place, most likely within 72 hours. By having this deadline set into place, these kits can finally be tested, and the victims of these groups, many of whom are young people, can finally get justice. I am also willing to offer more funding through federal grants to these precincts, so that long backlogs can finally be tested, and the victims of these long backlogs can finally be tested, and the victims of these groups left without any trial. How dare we do this to those hundreds upon thousands of victims? Who are we to deny them any sense of safety or justice? These facts have done nothing more than allow rapists to get out of any sort of punishment. This horrific trend must be stopped, and can only be stopped if this untested rape kit backlog can finally be tested, and the victims of these horrible crimes finally have their justice. To ensure this money is used to test these rape kits, I will work with Congress to pass a law into action that will give precipit a time constraint in which they must test these kits most likely within 72 hours. By having this deadline set into place, as well as the money to fund said testing, this will graduate to a national concern.
feed a family. Economically, there is more inequality in America than ever. According to the Pew Research Center, since 1983 “virtually all wealth gains made by U.S. families have gone to upper income groups.” The top 1% of American families received 22.5% of all pre-tax income in 2012, with the bottom 90% receiving less than 50% of total income nationally ever.

For the plights of everyday Americans to rightfully regain the attention of the government, the deluge of money being pumped into the system by big corporations and wealthy donors must be stopped. New campaign finance regulations and a reversal of the Citizens United decision will take the government control of the corporate elite and put it back into the hands of the people.

Policies designed to combat income inequality at its roots are the only way to fix our broken system. For example, we need a minimum wage that allows families an equal chance at happiness. We need political leadership that will give low-income women an equal chance at personal liberty, instead of seeking to strip funding from organizations like Planned Parenthood, which for many women are their only option for reproductive healthcare. We need a healthcare system that ensures that no one has less of a right to health care than another in their own community. We need affordable education and job training programs to give young people the tools they need to contribute to our economy. Tax cuts for the wealthiest have only widened the gap and made life harder for too many Americans. It’s time to unite, rather than divide, our country.

In order for the American people to unite, elected officials must lead the way, by following the will of the people, instead of the dictates of their wealthy donors. For example, in a recent Climate Change report, the White House found that low-income and minority communities suffer the most from climate change-induced events, including heat waves and floods. Still, many in Congress who benefit from oil companies continue to deny climate change exists. Congress must begin a full-scale attack on climate change-induced events.

The problems facing us as a nation are daunting in scope and are distant in time. They seem to require a political solution. A child can bring to bear for the sake of another individual, our community, a specific cause, or the world at large. If each person devoted even an hour a week to making the world a better place, it would have a tremendous impact.

You are never too young or old to make a difference. You are never too poor, too weak, or too busy to make a difference. Every single one of us has strengths that we can harness to make the world better for the people around us. My 10-year-old neighbor drives his family’s tractor to plow our driveway after every snowstorm, out of the kindness of his heart. My mom and I run wildlife camps for kids; one of our 9-year-old campers started an organization to help older shelter cats find homes. A sophomore at my high school helped organize a winter sleep-out to end homelessness, attended by over a hundred people. These are all young people seeing problems and finding ways to take action through compassion, courage, creativity, and community service.

I serve as Miss Vermont’s Outstanding Teen; my platform is wildlife rehabilitation and stewardship of the natural world, which is a cause to which I have been devoted since I was a small child. I travel across Vermont encouraging young people to find their own passion and get involved in contributing something of value to their communities. The response is always inspiring. The problems around us are daunting in scope and are distant in time. They seem to require a political solution. A child can bring to bear for the sake of another individual, our community, a specific cause, or the world at large. If each person devoted even an hour a week to making the world a better place, it would have a tremendous impact.

The problems facing us as a nation are daunting in scope and are distant in time. They seem to require a political solution. A child can bring to bear for the sake of another individual, our community, a specific cause, or the world at large. If each person devoted even an hour a week to making the world a better place, it would have a tremendous impact.

(At the request of Mr. Reid, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORWAY SAVINGS BANK

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Norway Savings Bank, a mutual savings bank based in southern Maine. This community bank has a long and proud history of serving the people of Maine, and I am proud to add my voice to those in our grateful State in recognizing this milestone.

Norway Savings Bank was incorporated in 1866, Norway was a small town with a population of 150. A century and a half later, Norway has become a bustling mill town, as well as a popular tourist destination. And since it opened its original building on Main Street in Norway in 1894, Norway Savings Bank has proven itself to be an exemplary community bank.

As a mutual savings bank, Norway Savings Bank is first and foremost accountable to its depositors and the community. At Norway Savings Bank, customers not only find high-quality service, but also an engaged and warm environment. Its dedicated employees have continued the tradition of providing customers with prompt and personalized solutions, regardless of the financial challenge. The bank consistently prioritizes the well-being of its staff and is consistently recognized as a top employer in the State of Maine. The bank was named one of the Best Banks to Work For in America in 2015 by the American Bankers Association, and branches of the company have been awarded Best Places to Work in Maine by the Society for Human Resource Management’s, SHRM, Maine State Council.

Norway Savings Bank’s employees prove that they understand the true meaning of “relationship banking” by devoting countless hours of their valuable time, as well as their resources, to the betterment of Maine by regularly supporting important community initiatives and issues. Between 2012 and 2014, Norway Savings Bank employees volunteered 27,788 hours of their time to different organizations in the community.

The bank’s core business model of providing access to community first remains true today even as Norway, ME, and the broader financial depository industry have changed dramatically. I am proud to join the people of Norway, ME, and communities across western and southern Maine in thanking Norway Savings Bank for their commitment to the people of Maine and continued work on behalf of our great State. This milestone is a testament to their hard work over the past 150 years, and I wish them many more years of success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING LEFT HAND DITCH COMPANY

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I honor the Left Hand Ditch Company, based in Boulder County, CO, on its 150th anniversary. Left Hand Ditch Company was founded on February 27, 1866, 10 years before Colorado became a State. It provides an essential resource for water in the Boulder and Longmont region of the Northern Front Range.

Left Hand has played an important role in the history of water law in Colorado and the American West. In the case of Coassin v. Left Hand Ditch Company in 1882, the Colorado Supreme Court upheld Left Hand’s right to continue use of the water supply in the area. This “first-in-time, first-right” decision became the basis for water law in the West, known as the Doctrine of Prior Appropriation. As one historian
has said, “The story of the Left Hand Ditch is the story of water in the west.”

Water is a foundational aspect of Colorado’s history and is a primary driver for agriculture, commerce, and community development in the State. Left Hand’s contributions have helped spur growth in this region and set an important precedent for our Nation’s water laws. Congratulations to the Left Hand Ditch Company on reaching this significant milestone.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations, and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND HUNGARY, CONSISTING OF A PRINCIPAL AGREEMENT AND AN ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENT—PM 38

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

To the Congress of the United States:


The Agreements are similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with most European Union countries, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation, and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries.

The Agreements contain all provisions of section 233 of the Social Security Act and the provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4) of the Social Security Act.

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act on the estimated number of individuals who will be affected by the Agreements and the estimated cost effect. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreements to me. I commend the Agreements and related documents.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 1, 2016.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment: H.R. 1428. A bill to extend Privacy Act remedies to citizens of certified states, and for other purposes.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. DAINES): S. 2745. A bill to establish a Commission on Structural Alternatives for the Federal Courts of Appeals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. DAINES): S. 2747. A bill to provide a standard definition of therapeutic foster care services in Medicaid.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. SHAREEN, and Mr. McCONNELL): S. 2476. A bill to provide a standard definition of therapeutic foster care services in Medicaid.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. HATCH): S. 2475. A bill to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit judges, to divide the Ninth Judicial Circuit of the United States into 2 circuits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN): S. 2477. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide Federal jurisdiction for the theft of trade secrets, and for other purposes.

By Mr. HATCH: S. 1333. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to exclude cannabis and cannabinoid-rich plants from the definition of marijuana, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MARKEY: S. 1379. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to exclude cannabis and cannabinoid-rich plants from the definition of marijuana, and for other purposes.

By Mr. HATCH: S. 1479. A bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 to modify provisions relating to grants, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MURRAY: S. 1369. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to strengthen protections for employees wishing
to advocate for improved wages, hours, or other terms or conditions of employment and to provide for stronger remedies for interference with these rights, and for other purposes.

S. 2116

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2116, a bill to improve certain programs of the Small Business Administration to better assist small business customers in accessing broadband technology, and for other purposes.

S. 2119

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2119, a bill to provide for greater congressional oversight of Iran’s nuclear program, and for other purposes.

S. 2145

At the request of Ms. HEITKAMP, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) were added as co-sponsors of S. 2145, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the fight against breast cancer.

S. 2344

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2344, a bill to provide authority for access to certain business records collected under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 prior to November 29, 2015, to make the authority for roving surveillance, the authority to treat individual terrorists as agents of foreign powers, and title VII of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 permanent, and to modify the certification requirements for access to telephone toll and transactional records by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and for other purposes.

S. 2403

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2403, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide a period for the relocation of spouses and dependents of certain members of the Armed Forces undergoing a permanent change of station in order to ease and facilitate the relocation of military families, and for other purposes.

S. 2423

At the request of Ms. AYOTTE, her name was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2423, a bill making appropriations to address the heroin and opioid drug abuse epidemic for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

S. 2451

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, his name was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2451, a bill to designate the area between the intersections of International Drive, Northwest and Van Ness Street, Northwest and International Drive, Northwest and Washington, District of Columbia, as “Liu Xiaobo Plaza”, and for other purposes.

S. 2452

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as co-sponsors of S. 2452, a bill to prohibit the use of funds to make payments to Iran relating to the settlement of claims brought before the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal until Iran has paid certain compensatory damages awarded to United States persons by United States courts.

S. 2455

At the request of Mr. LEE, his name was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2455, a bill to expand school choice in the District of Columbia.

S. 2469

At the request of Mr. McCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2459, a bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

S. 2462

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2462, a bill to amend section 117 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude Federal student aid from taxable gross income.

S. 2466

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 2466, a bill to amend the Safe Water Drinking Act to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to notify the public if a State agency and public water system are not taking action to address a public health risk associated with drinking water requirements.

S. CON. RES. 27

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a co-sponsor of S. Con. Res. 27, a concurrent resolution affirming the importance of religious freedom as a fundamental human right that is essential to a free society and is protected for all Americans by the text of the Constitution, and recognizing the 230th anniversary of the enactment of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom.

S. RES. 347

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as co-sponsors of S. Res. 347, a resolution honoring the memory and legacy of Anita Ashok Datar and condemning the terrorist attack in Bamako, Mali, on November 29, 2015.

AMENDMENT NO. 2971

At the request of Mr. KIRK, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2971 intended to be proposed to S. 2971, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2972

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a co-sponsor of amendment No. 2972 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2990

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a co-sponsor of amendment No. 2990 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3005

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a co-sponsor of amendment No. 3005 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3006

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. O’ROURKE) was added as a co-sponsor of amendment No. 3006 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3007

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a co-sponsor of amendment No. 3007 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3008

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3008 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3009

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a co-sponsor of amendment No. 3009 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3010

At the request of Mr. HAINES, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a co-sponsor of amendment No. 3010 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3011

At the request of Mr. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3011 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.
provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3072
At the request of Mr. DONELLY, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Nevada (Mrs. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3072 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3073
At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3082 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3083
At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3092 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3090
At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3095 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3096
At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3096 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3107
At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Ayotte) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3107 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3118
At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3097 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3128
At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3098 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3139
At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3099 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3143
At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3100 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3172
At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Shaheen) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3105 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3176
At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. Murphy) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. Warren) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3107 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3136
At the request of Mrs. McCaskill, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. Cassidy) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3135 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3138
At the request of Mrs. Shaheen, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. Hirono), the Senator from Maine (Mr. King) and the Senator from California (Mrs. Feinstein) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3138 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3140
At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. Ayotte), the Senator from Montana (Ms. Steinem), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. Franken), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Crapo) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. Risch) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3140 intended to be proposed to S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED
SA 3143. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2963 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3144. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2963 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3145. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2963 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3146. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2963 proposed by Mr. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3147. Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2963 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3148. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3149. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2963 proposed by Mr. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3150. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2963 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3151. Mr. BURR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2963 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3152. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2963 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3153. Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. CASTEX) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2963 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3154. Mr. HUNTER (for himself and Mr. UDALL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2963 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3155. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2963 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3156. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2963 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3157. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2963 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3158. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2963 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3159. Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Ms. HEITKAMP, and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2963 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.
TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3143. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3173. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3174. Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3176. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3177. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3178. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3179. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. HOBEN, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3180. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3181. Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3182. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3183. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3184. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3185. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3186. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3187. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3188. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3189. Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3190. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3191. Ms. HEITKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3192. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3193. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part III of subtitle D of title I, add the following:

SEC. 3801. MODIFYING THE DEFINITION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TO INCLUDE THERMAL ENERGY.

(a) In General.—Section 203 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852) (as amended by section 3001(b)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “a number equivalent to” before “the total amount of electric energy”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by redesigning paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(b) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

(2) QUALIFIED WASTE HEAT RESOURCE.—The term ‘qualified waste heat resource’ means—

(A) exhaust heat or flared gas from any industrial process;

(B) waste gas or industrial tail gas that would otherwise be flared, incinerated, or vented;

(C) a pressure drop in any gas for an industrial or commercial process;

(D) such other forms of waste heat as the Secretary determines appropriate; and

(E) a circumstance exists that constitutes, or is likely to become, a regional severe energy supply interruption of significant scope or duration; and

(ii) action taken under this subsection would assist directly and significantly in preventing or reducing the adverse impact of the shortage.

REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.—Refined petroleum products covered by this subsection include all petroleum products other than crude oil held by the Secretary as part of—

(A) the Strategic Petroleum Reserve established by section 154; or

(B) the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve established under section 181.

SA 3145. Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

Subtitle I—Renewable Energy

SEC. 3801. MODIFYING THE DEFINITION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TO INCLUDE THERMAL ENERGY.

(a) In General.—Section 203 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852) (as amended by section 3001(b)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “a number equivalent to” before “the total amount of electric energy”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by redesigning paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(b) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

(2) QUALIFIED WASTE HEAT RESOURCE.—The term ‘qualified waste heat resource’ means—

(A) exhaust heat or flared gas from any industrial process;

(B) waste gas or industrial tail gas that would otherwise be flared, incinerated, or vented;

(C) a pressure drop in any gas for an industrial or commercial process;

(D) such other forms of waste heat as the Secretary determines appropriate; and

(E) a circumstance exists that constitutes, or is likely to become, a regional severe energy supply interruption of significant scope or duration; and

(ii) action taken under this subsection would assist directly and significantly in preventing or reducing the adverse impact of the shortage.

REFINED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.—Refined petroleum products covered by this subsection include all petroleum products other than crude oil held by the Secretary as part of—

(A) the Strategic Petroleum Reserve established by section 154; or

(B) the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve established under section 181.
(C) by adding at the end the following: 

“(2) SEPARATE CALCULATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of determining compliance with the requirements of this subchapter, any energy consumption that is avoided through the use of renewable energy shall be considered to be renewable energy produced.

“(B) AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Avoided energy consumption that is considered to be renewable energy produced under subparagraph (A) shall not also be counted for purposes of compliance with another Federal energy efficiency goal.”.


SA 3146. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MUKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE II—BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

SEC. 01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Bureau of Reclamation Transparency Act”.

SEC. 02. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the water resources infrastructure of the Bureau of Reclamation provides important benefits related to irrigated agriculture, municipal and industrial water, hydropower, flood control, fish and wildlife, and recreation in the 17 Reclamation States;

(2) as of 2013, the combined replacement value of the infrastructure assets of the Bureau of Reclamation was $91,300,000,000;

(3) the majority of the water resources infrastructure facilities of the Bureau of Reclamation are at least 60 years old;

(4) the Bureau of Reclamation has previously undertaken efforts to better manage the assets of the Bureau of Reclamation, including an annual review of asset maintenance priorities by the Bureau of Reclamation known as the “Asset Management Plan”; and

(5) available information on infrastructure conditions at the asset level, including information on maintenance needs at individual assets due to aging infrastructure, is needed for Congress to conduct oversight of Reclamation facilities and meet the needs of the public.

SEC. 03. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) DEFINITION.

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “asset” means any of the following assets that are used to achieve the mission of the Bureau of Reclamation to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the people of the United States:

(i) Capitalized facilities, buildings, structures, project features, power production equipment, recreation facilities, or quarters.

(ii) Noncapitalized heavy equipment and other installed equipment.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term “asset” includes facilities described in subparagraph (A) that are consistent with critical needs.

(2) ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT.—The term “Asset Management Report” means—

(A) the annual plan prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation known as the “Asset Management Plan”; and

(B) any publicly available information required under section 203(b)(3) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15852(b)(3)) by the Bureau of Reclamation at a Reclamation project.

(3) RECLAMATION FACILITY.—The term “Reclamation facility” means the Bureau of Reclamation at a Reclamation project.

(4) ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT.—The term “Asset Management Report” means a report that is submitted to Congress under subsection (a).

(5) BUREAU.—The term “Bureau” means the Bureau of Reclamation.

(6) MAJOR REPAIR AND REHABILITATION NEED.—The term “major repair and rehabilitation need” means major nonrecurring maintenance of a Reclamation facility, including maintenance related to the safety of dams, extraordinary maintenance of dams, deferred major maintenance activities, and other repairs and extraordinary maintenance.

(7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(8) TRANSFERRED WORKS.—The term “transferred works” means reserved works that are transferred to the Secretary for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

At the end, add the following:

Mr. RISCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3147 proposed by Ms. MUKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and
SA 3149. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 31 . REPORT REQUIREMENT FOR FEDERAL OIL AND GAS.

(a) In General.—The Secretary of the Interior may not alter royalties for Federal onshore oil and gas development without first—

(1) submitting a report to Congress—

(A) demonstrating that the proposed action would not result in a net loss in jobs to the affected communities where the Federal onshore oil and gas development occurs; and

(B) detailing any potential economic impacts the action would have on rural economies; and

(C) containing an independent analysis of the direct and indirect impact of the action on small businesses impacted by a change in royalty structure.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR REPORT.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include information describing the impact the action will have on—

(1) net revenue to the Treasury of the United States and to the States, taking into account the value of the tax and royalty revenue foregone; and

(2) rural economies, specifically areas dependent on Federal oil and gas development.

SA 3150. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 31 . ONLINE AUCTIONS AUTHORIZED.

Section 36 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 192) is amended by adding before the period at the end the following: “And pro-
vided further, that in the event of a protest activity or other unforeseen event causing a disruption to a sale under this section, the Secretary of the Interior, after the protest activity or other unforeseen event, may proceed with the sale through an Internet-based auction.”

SA 3151. Mr. BURR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part I of subtitle A of title III, add the following:

SEC. 30 . EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELL VEHICLE PROGRAMS.

(a) In General.—Notwithstanding the time period specified in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project numbered 12942, the Commission may, at the request of the licensee, grant a reasonable extension, in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of the Commission under that section, extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of the project for up to 2-year periods from the date of the expiration of the extension originally issued by the Commis-

SA 3152. Mr. BOOZMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the fol-

SEC. 44 . GAO INVESTIGATION OF BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS RELATING TO THE SEIZURE OF HELICOPTER FUEL.

(a) INVESTIGATION.—(1) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an investigation of actions taken by employees of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (referred to in this section as the “Bureau”) regarding the demand and for, or seizure of, without per-

SA 3153. Mr. VITTER (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title IV, add the following:

SEC. 12 . RECOGNITION OF STATE OR LOCAL DETERMINATIONS.

Section 211 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 824a-3(m)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (4), (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-

SEC. 23 . STATE OR LOCAL DETERMINATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—After the date of enact-

ment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, no electric utility shall be re-

quired to enter into a new contract or le-

gally enforceable obligation to purchase electric energy from a qualifying small power production facility that produces elec-

tric energy solely by the use, as a primary energy source, of a resource other than waste and water, under this section if the State regulatory agency (with respect to each electric utility for which the State reg-

ulatory authority has ratemaking authority) or the nonregulated electric utility has de-

termined that the electric utility has no need to purchase additional generation from such resources in order to meet the obligation of the electric utility to serve customers in the public interest.

(B) REASSESSMENT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of a determination under subparagraph (A) and every 3 years there-

after, the State regulatory agency (with re-

spect to each electric utility for which the State regulatory authority has ratemaking authority) or the nonregulated electric utility shall reassess the determination under that section.

(3) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated—

(A) in the second sentence, by striking “of this subsection”; and

(B) by inserting “or in paragraph (3)” after “paragraph (1)” each place it appears; and

(4) in paragraph (5) (as so redesigned—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “para-

graph (3)” and inserting “paragraph (4)”;

(B) in the second sentence, by striking “of this subsection”; and

(C) by inserting “or in paragraph (3)” after “paragraph (1)” each place it appears.

SA 3148. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other pur-

poses; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the fol-

SEC. 11 . PRESIDENT’S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN.

The Federal Government shall not take any action pursuant to the President’s Cli-

mate Action Plan (published in June 2013), including for the implementation of the final rule enti-

titled “Carbon Pollution Emission Guidance for Existing Stationary Sources: Elec-

tric Utility Generating Units” (80 Fed. Reg. 64662 (October 23, 2015)), that would reduce electric grid reliability, which would—

(1) unnecessarily endanger the health and welfare of senior citizens in the United States; and

(2) result in increased electricity prices that disproportionately impact low-income and fixed-income households, minority com-
munities, small businesses, manufacturers, and rural com-
munities.
owned helicopter fuel from lessees, permit holders, or operators of federally leased offshore facilities, independent contractors, or third-party vendors.

(2) The purposes of the investigations conducted under paragraph (1) shall be to determine—

(A) whether the Bureau has the explicit authority under law (including regulations in effect at the Bureau’s request) to take helicopter fuel from lessees, permit holders, or operators of federally leased offshore facilities, independent contractors, or third-party vendors, even in cases where the Bureau offers compensation for the fuel demanded or seized; and

(B) if the Comptroller General of the United States determines that the Bureau has the authority described in clause (i), whether—

(I) the Bureau may demand or seize the helicopter fuel at any time and for any purpose; or

(ii) the authority under that clause is subject to conditions or limitations;

(b) Whether an independent helicopter service provider under agreement with the Bureau or a contracted helicopter service provider of the Bureau qualifies as “a designated operator or agent of the lessee(s), a pipeline operator, or a pipeline holder, or a state granted a right-of-way and easement” under section 250.105 of title 30, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act);

(c) Whether the Bureau is or has been conducting random, unscheduled inspections at any facility of a lessee or permit holder of the Bureau’s Bureau—

(i) to allow the Bureau to take helicopter fuel at the facility for the convenience of the Bureau; and

(ii) to identify the taking of helicopter fuel in connection with an inspection that otherwise would not have occurred; and

(d) Whether employees of the Bureau, by demanding or seizing, or directing participation of third parties in the demand for or seizure of, helicopter fuel, through intimidation, coercion, or other means, directly or indirectly, without the consent of the private owner of the fuel, would be—

(I) subject to civil liability under section 2860b of title 42 of United States Code; or

(II) subject to civil or criminal liability under any other law.

(b) Report.—On completion of the investigation under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall 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 that describes the results of the investigation under that subsection.

SA 3154. Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. Udall) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. Murkowski to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 42. RESTORATION OF LABORATORY DIRECTED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) laboratory directed research and development (referred to in this subsection as “LDRD”) is an investment for the future; and

(2) the purposes of LDRD are—

(A) to recruit, to develop, and to retain a creative workforce for a laboratory; and

(B) to produce innovative ideas that are vital to the laboratory to produce the best scientific work in accordance with the mission of the laboratory;

(3) LDRD has a long history of support and accomplishment in Congress; first authorized LDRD in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 1711 et seq.);

(4) formal requirements, external review, and development of energy law; the Secretary with respect to LDRD projects ensure that LDRD projects are selected competitively; and

(B) by exploring innovative and new areas of research that are not covered by existing research programs;

(5) LDRD is a resource to support cutting-edge exploratory research prior to the identification and development of a research program by the Department or a strategic partner of the Department;

(6) LDRD projects in the same topic area may be funded at various laboratories to explore potential paths for a program in that topic area;

(7) LDRD projects provide valuable insights for peer-review, whether under agreement with the Bureau or a contracted helicopter service provider of the Bureau qualifies as “a designated operator or agent of the lessee(s), a pipeline operator, or a pipeline holder, or a state granted a right-of-way and easement” under section 250.105 of title 30, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act);

(c) REPORT.—On completion of the investigation under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall 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 that describes the results of the investigation under that subsection.

SA 3155. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. Murkowski to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

(a) FUNDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) laboratory directed research and development (referred to in this subsection as “LDRD”) is an investment for the future; and

(2) the purposes of LDRD are—

(A) to recruit, to develop, and to retain a creative workforce for a laboratory; and

(B) to produce innovative ideas that are vital to the laboratory to produce the best scientific work in accordance with the mission of the laboratory;

(3) LDRD has a long history of support and accomplishment in Congress; first authorized LDRD in the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 1711 et seq.);

(4) formal requirements, external review, and development of energy law; the Secretary with respect to LDRD projects ensure that LDRD projects are selected competitively; and

(B) by exploring innovative and new areas of research that are not covered by existing research programs;

(5) LDRD is a resource to support cutting-edge exploratory research prior to the identification and development of a research program by the Department or a strategic partner of the Department;

(6) LDRD projects in the same topic area may be funded at various laboratories to explore potential paths for a program in that topic area;

(7) LDRD projects provide valuable insights for peer-review, whether under agreement with the Bureau or a contracted helicopter service provider of the Bureau qualifies as “a designated operator or agent of the lessee(s), a pipeline operator, or a pipeline holder, or a state granted a right-of-way and easement” under section 250.105 of title 30, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act);

(c) REPORT.—On completion of the investigation under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall 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 that describes the results of the investigation under that subsection.

SA 3156. Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. Stabenow) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. Murkowski to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 130, strike line 18 and all that follows through page 131, line 5.

Beginning on page 419, line 26, strike “as amended” and all that follows through page 132, line 1.

On page 325, line 9, insert “unless the paper has been segregated for the purpose of assured destruction” after “electricity”.

SA 3157. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. Murkowski to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 69, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

(d) WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LOW-INCOME PERSONS.—Section 415 of the Energy Conservation and Production Act (42 U.S.C. 6865) (as amended by subsection (c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(1) In general.—A State shall use up to 8 percent of any grant made by the Secretary under this section to establish a program to provide assistance under this section to the recipients of weatherization assistance under any provision of law, of any savings obtained by the Secretary under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program established under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 6821 et seq.), over a period of not more than 3 years.

“(2) USE OF SAVINGS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, of any savings obtained by the Secretary under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program established under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 6821 et seq.), over a period of not more than 3 years.
the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 8621 et seq.) as a result of the weatherization assistance provided under this part, as determined under paragraph

"(A) 50 percent shall be transferred to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide assistance to States under this part, to be deposited to the credit of States proportioned on the savings realized by each State under this part; and

"(B) 50 percent shall be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury for purposes of reducing the annual Federal budget deficit.

"(3) ANNUAL STATE PLANS.—A State may submit to the Secretary for approval within 90 days of this annual plan for the administration of assistance under this part in the State that includes, at the option of the State:

"(A) local income eligibility standards for the assistance that are not based on the formula that are used to allocate assistance under this part; and

"(B) the establishment of revolving loan funds for multifamily affordable housing units.

"(4) EVALUATION.—Of amounts appropriated for headquarters training and technical assistance for the Weatherization Assistance Program each fiscal year, the Secretary shall use not more than 25 percent:

"(A) for a 5-year evaluation of the plans submitted under paragraph (3); and

"(B) to disseminate to each State weatherization program a report describing the results of the evaluation.

"(5) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—As soon as practicable, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the training and technical assistance efforts of the Department to assist States in carrying out paragraph (1)."

SA 3159. Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Ms. HICKAM, and Mr. CASEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 322, strike lines 21 through 25 and insert the following:

"(9) work with minority-serving institutions to provide job training to increase the number of skilled minorities and women in the energy sector;

(10) provide job training for displaced and unemployed workers in the energy sector; or

(11) establish or support an existing Center of Excellence for energy workforce training based in a community college or an institution of higher education offering 2-year technical programs that offers programs located in the State.

SA 3160. Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. KILYONSE, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 263, line 5, strike "or the Atlantic Ocean Basin".

SA 3161. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title III, add the following:

"(2) enhance public awareness regarding the WaterSense label through outreach, education, and other means;

"(3) preserve the integrity of the WaterSense label by:

"(A) establishing and maintaining feasible performance criteria so that products, buildings, landscapes, facilities, processes, and services labeled with the WaterSense label perform as well or better than less water-efficient counterparts;

"(B) overseeing WaterSense certifications made by third parties;

"(C) as determined appropriate by the Administrator, using testing protocols, from the appropriate, applicable, and relevant consensus standards, and the purpose of determining standards compliance; and

"(D) auditing the use of the WaterSense label in the marketplace and preventing cases of misuse; and

"(4) not more often than 6 years after adoption or major revision of any WaterSense specification, review and, if appropriate, make the necessary amendments to achieve additional water savings;

"(5) in revising a WaterSense specification—

"(A) provide reasonable notice to interested parties and the public of any changes, including effective dates, and an explanation of the changes;

"(B) solicit comments from interested parties and the public prior to any changes;

"(C) as appropriate, respond to comments submitted by interested parties and the public;

"(D) provide an appropriate transition time period to the applicable effective date of any changes, taking into account the timing necessary for the manufacture, marketing, training, and distribution of the specific water-efficient product, building, landscape, process, or service category being addressed; and

"(6) not later than December 31, 2018, consider for review and revision any WaterSense specification adopted before January 1, 2012.

"(c) DISTINCTION OF AUTHORITIES.—In setting or maintaining specifications for Energy Star pursuant to section 324A, and WaterSense under this section, the Secretary and Administrator shall coordinate to prevent duplicative or conflicting requirements among the respective programs.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. sec. 6201) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 324A the following:

"Sec. 324B. WaterSense.".

SA 3163. Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:
TITLE VI—SECURING AMERICA’S FUTURE ENERGY: PROTECTING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE OF PIPELINES AND ENHANCING SAFETY ACT

SEC. 6001. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This title may be cited as the “Securing America’s Future Energy: Protecting Our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act” or the “SAFE PIPELINE ACT”.

(b) REFERENCES TO TITLE 49, UNITED STATES CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, wherever in this title an amendment is made 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 title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 6002. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) GAS AND HAZARDOUS LIQUID.—Section 60215(a) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “there is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Transportation for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2015, from fees collected under section 60301, $19,679,000, of which $4,746,000 is for carrying out such section 12 and $2,181,000 is for making grants,” and inserting the following: “there are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Transportation from fees collected under section 60301—

(A) $12,060,000 for fiscal year 2016, of which $3,139,000 shall be expended for carrying out such section 12 and $4,152,500 shall be expended for making grants;

(B) $128,671,000 for fiscal year 2017, of which $3,518,000 shall be expended for carrying out such section 12 and $42,914,000 shall be expended for making grants;

(C) $132,334,000 for fiscal year 2018, of which $3,740,000 shall be expended for carrying out such section 12 and $45,371,000 shall be expended for making grants; and

(D) $135,061,000 for fiscal year 2019, of which $3,907,000 shall be expended for carrying out such section 12 and $45,805,000 shall be expended for making grants.”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “there is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Transportation for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2015, from fees collected under section 60301, $10,767,000, of which $2,197,000 is for carrying out such section 12 and $3,019,000 is for making grants,” and inserting the following: “there are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Transportation from fees collected under section 60301—

(A) $7,542,000 for fiscal year 2016, of which $1,916,000 shall be expended for carrying out such section 12 and $2,032,000 shall be expended for making grants;

(B) $7,823,000 for fiscal year 2017, of which $1,962,000 shall be expended for carrying out such section 12 and $2,081,000 shall be expended for making grants;

(C) $7,913,000 for fiscal year 2018, of which $1,979,000 shall be expended for carrying out such section 12 and $2,107,000 shall be expended for making grants; and

(D) $8,002,000 for fiscal year 2019, of which $2,015,000 shall be expended for carrying out such section 12 and $2,212,000 shall be expended for making grants.”;

(b) DECLARACTIONS.—Section 60303(a)(1) is amended by striking “$202,000,000” and inserting “$203,000,000.”

SEC. 6004. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS.

The Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration shall—

(1) rescind the implementation of the June 26, 2015 PHMSA Interpretative letter (¶14–0178); and

(2) reinstate paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 172.330(c) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, without the reference to “gasohol”, as was originally intended in the March 7, 2013 final rule (PHMSA–2011–0142).

SEC. 6005. STATUTORY PREFERENCE.

The Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration shall—

(1) rescind the implementation of the June 26, 2015 PHMSA Interpretative letter (¶14–0178); and

(2) reinstate paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 172.330(c) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, without the reference to “gasohol”, as was originally intended in the March 7, 2013 final rule (PHMSA–2011–0142).

SEC. 6006. STATUTORY PREFERENCE.

The Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration shall—

(1) rescind the implementation of the June 26, 2015 PHMSA Interpretative letter (¶14–0178); and

(2) reinstate paragraphs (4) and (5) of section 172.330(c) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, without the reference to “gasohol”, as was originally intended in the March 7, 2013 final rule (PHMSA–2011–0142).
conditions, including the age, condition, materials, and construction of a pipeline, should have on risk analysis of a particular pipeline and what changes to the definition of high consequence areas could be made to improve pipeline safety; and

(5) a description of any challenges affecting Federal or State regulators in their oversight of the program and how the challenges are being addressed.

SEC. 6008. TECHNICAL SAFETY STANDARDS COMMITTEES.

Section 626(b)(4)(A) is amended by striking “State commissioners. The Secretary shall consult with the national organization of State public utility commissions before selecting those 2 individuals.” and inserting “State officials. The Secretary shall consult with national organizations representing State commissioners or consulting with a selection under this subparagraph.”

SEC. 6009. INSPECTION REPORT INFORMATION.

(a) In general.—Not later than 30 days after the completion of a pipeline safety inspection, the Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, or the State authority certified under section 40106 of title 49, United States Code, shall—

(1) conduct a post-inspection briefing with the operator outlining concerns, and to the extent practicable, provide written preliminary findings of the inspection; or

(2) issue to the operator a final report, notice of any compliance programs before selecting those 2 individuals.” and inserting “State officials. The Secretary shall consult with national organizations representing State commissioners or consulting with a selection under this subparagraph.”

SEC. 6010. PIPELINE ODORIZATION STUDY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives regarding the study under this section, and shall include in the report a description of any challenges affecting Federal or State regulators in their oversight of the program and how the challenges are being addressed.

SEC. 6011. IMPROVING DAMAGE PREVENTION TECHNOLOGY.

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with stakeholders, shall conduct a study on improving existing damage prevention programs through technological improvements in location, mapping, excavation, and communications practices to prevent accidental excavation damage to a pipe or its coating, including considerations of technical, operational, and economic feasibility and existing damage prevention programs.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an identification of any methods that could improve existing damage prevention programs through location and mapping practices or technologies in an effort to reduce unintended releases caused by excavation;

(2) an analysis of how increased use of GPS digital mapping technologies, predictive analytics, and other advanced technologies could supplement existing one-call notification and damage prevention programs to reduce the frequency and severity of incidents caused by excavation damage;

(3) an identification of any methods that could improve technologies or technologies in an effort to reduce pipeline damages;

(4) an analysis of the feasibility of a national data repository for pipeline excavation accident data that creates standardized data models for storing and sharing pipeline accident information; and

(5) an identification of opportunities for stakeholder engagement in preventing excavation damage.

(b) CESSATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.—Paragraph (1) shall cease to be effective on September 30, 2019.

SEC. 6012. WORKFORCE OF PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION.

(a) REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration shall submit to Congress a review of Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration staff resource management, including geographic allocation plans, hiring challenges, and expected retirement rates and strategic allocations, hiring challenges, and any other identified staff resource challenges.

(b) CRITICAL HIRING NEEDS.—

(1) In general.—Beginning on the date on which the review is submitted under subsection (a), the Administrator shall identify critical hiring needs.

(2) Authorization.—With the approval of the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Administrator may, in consultation with the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives that assesses—

(1) the feasibility of odorizing all combustible gas in transportation;

(2) the impacts of the odorization of all combustible gas in transportation on manufacturers, agriculture, and other end users; and

(3) the relative benefits and costs associated with odorizing all combustible gas in transportation on public safety and health and safety, compared to using other methods to mitigate pipeline leaks.

SEC. 6013. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

SEC. 6014. INFORMATION SHARING SYSTEM.

(a) In general.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall convene a working group to consider the development of a voluntary no-fault information sharing system to encourage collaborative efforts to improve inspection information feedback and information sharing with the purpose of improving natural gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipeline integrity risk analysis.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The working group described in subsection (a) shall include representatives from—

(1) the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration;

(2) industry stakeholders, including operators of pipeline facilities, inspection technology vendors, and pipeline inspection organizations;

(3) safety advocacy groups;

(4) research institutions;

(5) State public utility commissions or State officials responsible for pipeline safety oversight;

(6) State pipeline safety inspectors; and

(7) labor representatives.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—The working group described in subsection (a) shall consider the following in developing the recommendations provided under this section—

(1) the need for and the identification of a system to ensure that data is shared with in-line inspector vendors to the extent consistent with the need to maintain proprietary and secure sensitive data in an individual manner to improve pipeline safety and inspection technology;

(2) ways to encourage the exchange of pipeline inspection information and the development of advanced pipeline inspection technologies and enhanced risk analysis;

(3) opportunities to share data, including dig verification data between operators of pipeline facilities and in-line inspector vendors to expand knowledge of the advantages and disadvantages of the different types of in-line inspection technology and methodologies;

(4) options to create a secure system that protects proprietary data while encouraging the exchange of pipeline inspection information; and

(5) regulatory, funding, and legal barriers to sharing the information described in paragraphs (1) through (4).

(d) FACA.—The working group shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.)

(e) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary shall publish the recommendations provided under
subsection (c) on a publicly available website.

SEC. 6015. NATIONWIDE INTEGRATED PIPELINE SAFETY REGULATORY DATABASE.

(a) RECOGNITION.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report to Congress on the feasibility of a nationwide integrated pipeline safety regulatory inspection database to improve communication and collaboration between the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, and the states that have pipeline regulatory authority under such Act.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of any efforts currently under way to test a secure information sharing system for the purpose described in subsection (a);

(2) a description of any progress in establishing common standards for maintaining, collecting, and presenting pipeline safety regulatory inspection data, and a methodology for the sharing of the data;

(3) a description of any existing inadequacies or gaps in State and Federal inspection, enforcement, geospatial, or other pipeline safety regulatory inspection data;

(4) the potential safety benefits of a national integrated pipeline database; and

(5) recommendations for how to implement a secure information-sharing system that protects proprietary and security sensitive information and data for the purpose described in subsection (a).

(c) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the report under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with stakeholders, including each State that has pipeline regulatory authority under such Act, the Comptroller General of the United States, and the National Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

SEC. 6016. UNDERGROUND NATURAL GAS STORAGE FACILITIES.

(a) DEFINED TERM.—Section 60101(a), as amended by section 6016, is amended to read—

"(a) DEFINED TERM.—Section 60101(a), as amended by section 6016, is further amended by inserting after paragraph (26) the following:

"(27) 'underground natural gas storage facility,' meaning a gas storage facility, as defined in section 60105, that is located within 500 feet of an interstate pipeline, for the purpose of storing, or retrieving, natural gas for—

\(\ldots\)

SEC. 6017. JOINT INSPECTION AND OVERSIGHT.

To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall allow for a certified State authority under section 60105 of title 49, United States Code, to participate in the inspection of an interstate pipeline facility.

(2) Where appropriate, may provide temporary authority for a certified State authority under section 60105 to participate in the inspection of an interstate pipeline facility.

(a) LOCATION STANDARDS.—In determining the location of an underground natural gas storage facility, the Secretary shall consider—

(i) the value of establishing risk-based location, regulation, and demographic characteristics of the location;

(ii) the benefit of incorporating industry standards and best practices;

(iii) the need to encourage the use of best available technology, and

(iv) the factors prescribed in paragraph (2), as appropriate.

SEC. 6018. HIGH CONSEQUENCE AREAS.

The Secretary of Transportation shall review section 195.6(b) of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations to explicitly state that the criteria for high consequence areas are a United States risk assessment (as defined in section 195.6(b) of that title) for purposes of determining whether a pipeline is in a high consequence area (as defined in section 195.482 of that title).

SEC. 6020. SURFACE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY REVIEW.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress on the coordination, resource allocation, oversight strategy, and management of the Transportation Security Administration’s pipeline security program and its interface with other surface transportation programs. The report shall include information on the coordination between the Transportation Security Administration, other Federal stakeholders, and industry.
SEC. 6022. REPORT ON NATURAL GAS LEAK REPORTING.

(a) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration shall submit to Congress a report on the metrics for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and other Federal and State agencies related to lost and unaccounted for natural gas from distribution pipelines and systems.

(b) Elements.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) An examination of different reporting requirements or standards for lost and unaccounted for natural gas to different agencies, the reasons for any such discrepancies, and recommendations to harmonize and improve the accuracy of reporting.

(2) Analysis of whether separate or alternative reporting could better measure the amounts and identify the location of lost and unaccounted for natural gas from natural gas distribution systems.

(3) Description of potential safety issues associated with natural gas that is lost and unaccounted for from natural gas distribution systems.

(4) An assessment of whether alternative reporting and measures will resolve any safety issues identified under paragraph (3), including an analysis of the potential impact, including potential savings, on rate payers and end users of natural gas products of such reporting and measures.

(c) Consideration of Recommendations.—If the Administrator determines that alternative reporting structures or recommendations included in the report required under subsection (a) would significantly improve the reporting and measurement of lost and unaccounted for natural gas safety of systems, the Administrator shall, not later than 180 days after making such determination, issue regulations, as the Administrator determines appropriate, to implement the recommendations.

SEC. 6023. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW OF STATE POLICIES RELATING TO NATURAL GAS LEAKS.

(a) Review.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a state-by-state review of State-level policies that—

(1) encourage the repair and replacement of leaking natural gas distribution pipelines or systems that pose a safety threat, such as time-limited, temporary repairs and limits on cost recovery from ratepayers; and

(2) may create barriers for entities to conduct work to repair and replace leaking natural gas pipelines or distribution systems.

(b) Report.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report summarizing the review conducted under subsection (a) and making recommendations on Federal or State policies or best practices that may improve safety by accelerating the repair and replacement of natural gas pipelines or systems that are leaking or releasing natural gas, including policies within the jurisdiction of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. The report shall consider the potential impact, including potential savings, of the implementation of its recommendations to State or Federal end users of the natural gas pipeline system.

(c) Consideration of Recommendations.—If the Comptroller General makes recommendations in a report submitted under subsection (a) on Federal or State policies or best practices within the jurisdiction of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the Administrator shall, not later than 90 days after such submission, review such recommendations and report to Congress on the steps implementing such recommendations. If the Administrator determines that the recommendations would significantly improve pipeline safety, the Administrator shall, not later than 180 days after making such determination and in coordination with the heads of other relevant agencies as appropriate, issue regulations, as the Administrator determines appropriate, to implement the recommendations.

SEC. 6024. PROVISION OF RESPONSE PLANS TO APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.

(a) Provision of Response Plans to Appropriate Committees of Congress.—

(1) In general.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations promulgated after the date of enactment of this Act), the Director of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration shall, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Chief of the Office of Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the Administrator shall, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment, the Department of Energy, and any other appropriate agencies, issue regulations, as the Administrator determines appropriate, to implement the recommendations.

(b) Requirement.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations promulgated after the date of enactment of this Act), the Director of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration shall, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment, the Department of Energy, and any other appropriate agencies, issue regulations, as the Administrator determines appropriate, to implement the recommendations.

SEC. 6025. CONSULTATION WITH FCC AS PART OF PRE-PERMITTING PROCEDURES AND PERMISSIBLE USE OF NEW NATURAL GAS PIPELINE INFRASTRUCTURE.

Where appropriate, the Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration shall consult with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission during its pre-permitting process for new natural gas pipeline infrastructure to ensure the protection of people and the environment from the potential risks of hazardous materials transportation by pipeline.

SEC. 6026. MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.

Section 6101(b) is amended to read as follows:

(b) Payments.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator is authorized to pay to the State the following:

(1) Payments.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator is authorized to pay to the State the following:

(i) The costs of implementing the recommendations of the Director of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the Administrator shall, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment, the Department of Energy, and any other appropriate agencies, issue regulations, as the Administrator determines appropriate, to implement the recommendations.

(ii) The costs of implementing the recommendations of the Director of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the Administrator shall, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment, the Department of Energy, and any other appropriate agencies, issue regulations, as the Administrator determines appropriate, to implement the recommendations.

(iii) The costs of implementing the recommendations of the Director of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the Administrator shall, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment, the Department of Energy, and any other appropriate agencies, issue regulations, as the Administrator determines appropriate, to implement the recommendations.

(iv) The costs of implementing the recommendations of the Director of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, the Administrator shall, not later than 60 days after the date of enactment, the Department of Energy, and any other appropriate agencies, issue regulations, as the Administrator determines appropriate, to implement the recommendations.

SEC. 6165. Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part I of subtitle A of title III, add the following:

SEC. 30. PUMPED STORAGE HYDROPOWER COMPENSATION.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall initiate a proceeding to identify and determine the market value of pumped storage hydropower assets; and (A) balancing electricity supply and demand; and

(B) cost-effectively integrating intermittent power sources into the grid.

SEC. 6166. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. MARKEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title IV, add the following:

SEC. 44. FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PERMITTING AND REVIEW.

(a) Findings.—The Senate finds that—

(1) the Federal Government plays a central role in the review and approval of projects to
maintain and build the energy infrastructure of the United States, including—

(A) interstate gas pipelines;

(B) projects that cross Federal land; and

(C) projects that impact wildlife, cultural or historic resources, or waters of the United States;

(2) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission—

(A) has jurisdiction under section 7 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717f) to regulate interstate natural gas pipelines, including siting of the interstate natural gas pipelines; and

(B) is required under section 15 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717n), as a lead agency, to coordinate with other Federal agencies in the environmental review and processing of each Federal authorization relating to natural gas infrastructure;

(3) a report of the Government Accountability Office entitled “Pipeline Permitting: Interstate and Intrasate Natural Gas Permitting Processes Include Multiple Steps, and ‘Time Frames Vary’,” and dated February 2013, reported that—

(A) public interest groups and State officials that were interviewed believed that members of the public need more opportunity to comment on a proposed pipeline project during the permitting process conducted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;

(B) officials from Federal and State agencies and representatives from industry and public interest groups reported several management practices that—

(i) could help overcome challenges; and

(ii) are associated with an efficient permitting process and obtaining public input; and

(iii) include—

(I) ensuring effective collaboration among the numerous stakeholders involved in the permitting process;

(II) increasing opportunities for public comment; and

(4) robust engagement by the public and stakeholders is essential for the credibility of the siting, permitting, and review of Federal processes by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that, in accordance with Executive Order 13894 (5 U.S.C. 601 note; relating to improving performance of Federal permitting and reviewing processes), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should prioritize meaningful public engagement and coordination with State and local government that the Federal permitting and review processes of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission—

(1) remain transparent and consistent; and

(2) ensure the health, safety, and security of the environment and each community affected by the Federal permitting and review processes.

SA 3167. Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Mr. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

SEC. 22. EXPORT AUTHORIZATION EXCEPTION FOR SMALL-SCALE NATURAL GAS PROJECTS.

The export of low-level volumes of natural gas, measured at not more than 0.25 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas on an annualized basis per project, shall not require authorization under section 3(a) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717a).

SA 3170. Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. Cantwell) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE VI—VESSEL INCIDENTAL DISCHARGE ACT

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Vessel Incidental Discharge Act”.

SEC. 602. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Since the enactment of the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (22 U.S.C. 1901 et seq., the United States Coast Guard has been the principal Federal authority charged with administering hazard, enforcing, and prescribing regulations relating to the discharge of pollutants from vessels engaged in maritime commerce and transportation.

(2) The Coast Guard estimates there are approximately 2,560,000 State-registered recreational vessels, 75,000 commercial fishing vessels, and 33,000 freight and tank barges operating in United States waters.

(3) From 1973 to 2005, certain discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel were exempted by regulation from otherwise applicable permitting requirements.

(4) During the 32 years during which this regulatory exemption was in effect, Congress enacted several statutes to deal with the regulation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel, including—

(A) the Act to Prevent Pollution from Vessels, and 33,000 freight and tank barges operating in United States waters.

(B) the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.)

(C) the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 4073);

(D) section 413 of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 3450) in section 623 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2004 (33 U.S.C. 1901 note), which established interim and permanent requirements, respectively, for the regulation of vessel discharges of certain bulk cargo residues;

(E) title XIV of division B of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (114 Stat. 2763), which prohibited or limited certain vessel discharges in certain areas of Alaska;

(F) section 204 of the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 1202a), which established requirements for the regulation of vessel discharges of agricultural chemical residue material in the form of hold washings; and


(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this title is to provide for the establishment of nation-
standards and requirements for the management of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

SEC. 603. DEFINITIONS.

In this title—

(i) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(ii) BALLAST WATER.—The term "aquatic nuisance species" means a non-indigenous species (including a pathogen) that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability for any of navigable waters or commercial, agricultural, aquatic, or recreational activities dependent on such waters.

(iii) BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM;—The term "ballast water treatment technology" means any system, including associated control and monitoring equipment, or incinerator; or

(iv) B DRAFT.—Any draft, other than ballast water, shall be punished by a fine of not more than $100,000, imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or both.

(v) MAINTENANCE;—The term "maintenance" means the Secretary shall withhold or revoke the clearance, have threatened the safety or stability of the vessel propulsion system, motor driven equipment, or incinerator; or

(vi) MAINTENANCE OR REPAIR.—Any maintenance or repair of a system, equipment, or incinerator; or

(vii) N AVIGABLE WATERS.—The term "navigable waters or commercial, agricultural, aquatic, or recreational activities dependent on such waters." implies a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel under this title is covered by the definition of "navigable waters.

SEC. 604. REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall establish, implement, and enforce uniform national standards and requirements for the regulation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

(ii) SAFETY OR STABILITY.—Any vessel that complies with the requirements set forth in this Act shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of this Act.

(iii) SECURITY;—The term "security" means to comply with the requirements of this Act.

(iv) UNIFORM NATIONAL STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall establish, implement, and enforce uniform national standards and requirements for the regulation of discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel.

SEC. 605. UNIFORM NATIONAL STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGULATION OF DISCHARGES INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF A VESSEL.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—

(i) BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

(ii) OTHER DISCHARGE.—Any person who knowingly violates a regulation issued pursuant to this title regarding a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel other than ballast water shall be liable for a fine of not more than $100,000, imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or both.

(iii) VIOLATION OF A REGULATION.—The Secretary shall withhold or revoke the clearance of a vessel that is in violation of a regulation issued under this title.

(iv) VIOLATION.—The term "violation" means any failure to comply with the requirements set forth in this Act.

SEC. 606. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REGULATION OF DISCHARGES INCIDENTAL TO THE NORMAL OPERATION OF A VESSEL.

(a) REQUIREMENTS.—

(i) BALLAST WATER Vuex Management Requirements.—
a vessel until the Secretary revises the ballast water discharge standard under subsection (b) or adopts a more stringent State standard under subparagraph (B).

(2) Initial management requirements for discharges other than ballast water.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall issue a final rule establishing best management practices for discharges incidental to the normal operation of a vessel other than ballast water.

(b) Revised Ballast Water Discharge Standard; 8-Year Review.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the feasibility review required by paragraph (2), not later than January 1, 2024, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall issue a final rule revising the ballast water discharge standard established under subsection (a) to require that a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel will contain—

(A) less than 1 organism that is living or has not been rendered harmless per 10 cubic meters that is 50 or more micrometers in minimum dimension; or

(B) less than 1 organism that is living or has not been rendered harmless per 10 milliliters that is less than 50 micrometers in minimum dimension and more than 10 micrometers in minimum dimension; or

(C) concentrations of indicator microbes that are less than—

(i) 1 colony-forming unit of toxigenic Vibrio cholera (serotypes O1 and O139) per 100 milliliters or less than 1 colony-forming unit of that microbe per gram of wet weight of zoological samples; 

(ii) 126 colony-forming units of Escherichia coli per 100 milliliters or less than 1 colony-forming unit of that microbe per 10 milliliters; and

(iii) 33 colony-forming units of Enterococcus hirae per 100 milliliters; and

(iii) concentrations of such additional indicator microbes of viruses and pathogens as are specified in regulations issued by the Secretary in consultation with the Administrator and such other Federal agencies as the Secretary and the Administrator consider appropriate.

(2) Feasibility review.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less than 2 years before January 1, 2024, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a review to determine the feasibility of achieving the revised ballast water discharge standard established under paragraph (1).

(B) Criteria for review of ballast water discharge standard.—In conducting a review under paragraph (A), the Secretary shall consider whether revising the ballast water discharge standard will result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species, taking into account—

(i) improvements in the scientific understanding of biological and ecological processes that lead to introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species; and

(ii) improvements in ballast water management systems, including—

(I) the effectiveness and reliability of such management systems in the shipboard environment;

(II) the compatibility of such management systems and operation of a vessel by class, type, and size;

(III) the commercial availability of such management systems; and

(IV) the safety of such management systems;

(iii) improvements in the capabilities to detect, quantify, and assess the viability of organisms at the concentrations under consideration;

(iv) the impact of ballast water management systems on water quality; and

(v) the costs, cost-effectiveness, and impacts of—

(I) a revised ballast water discharge standard, including the potential impacts on water-related infrastructure, recreation, propagation of native fish, shellfish, and wildlife, and other uses of navigable waters.

(C) Lower revised discharge standard.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines on the basis of the feasibility review and after an opportunity for a public hearing that no ballast water management system can be certified under section 606 to comply with the revised ballast water discharge standard established under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall require the use of the management system that achieves the performance levels of the best available technology that is economically achievable.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that the management system under clause (i) cannot be implemented before the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) with respect to a class of vessels, the Secretary shall extend the implementation deadline for that class of vessels for not more than 36 months.

(iii) Compliance.—If the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) is extended, the Secretary shall ensure full compliance with the extended implementation deadline under clause (ii).

(D) Higher revised discharge standard.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that a ballast water management system exists that exceeds the revised ballast water discharge standard established under paragraph (1) with respect to a class of vessels and is the best available technology that is economically achievable, the Secretary shall revise the ballast water discharge standard for that class of vessels to incorporate the higher discharge standard.

(2) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that the management system under clause (i) can be implemented before the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) with respect to a class of vessels, the Secretary shall accelerate the implementation deadline for that class of vessels. If the implementation deadline under paragraph (3) is accelerated, the Secretary shall provide not less than 24 months notice before the accelerated deadline takes effect.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—The revised discharge standard established under paragraph (1) shall apply to a vessel beginning on the date of the first drydocking of the vessel on or after January 1, 2024, but not later than 3 years thereafter.

(4) Revised discharge standard compliance deadlines.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may establish a compliance deadline for compliance by a vessel (or a class, type, or size of vessel) with a revised ballast water discharge standard under this subsection.

(B) Process for granting extensions.—In issuing regulations under this subsection, the Secretary shall establish a process for an owner or operator to submit a request to the Secretary for an extension of a compliance deadline with respect to the vessel of the owner or operator.

(C) Period of extensions.—An extension issued under subparagraph (B) may—

(i) apply for a period of not to exceed 18 months from the date of the applicable deadline under subparagraph (A);

(ii) be renewable for an additional period of not to exceed 18 months.

(3) Factors.—In issuing a compliance deadline or reviewing a petition under this paragraph, the Secretary shall consider, with respect to the ability of an owner or operator to meet a compliance deadline, the following factors:

(i) Whether the management system to be installed is available in sufficient quantities to meet the compliance deadline;

(ii) Whether there is sufficient shipyard or other installation facility capacity;

(iii) Whether there is sufficient availability of engineering services;

(iv) Vessel characteristics, such as engine room size, layout, or a lack of installed piping;

(v) Electric power generating capacity aboard the vessel.

(vi) Safety of the vessel and crew.

(vi) Any other factors the Secretary considers appropriate, including the availability of a ballast water reception facility or other means of managing ballast water.

(E) Consideration of other factors.—

(i) DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary shall approve or deny a petition for an extension of a compliance deadline submitted by an owner or operator under this paragraph.

(ii) Deadlines.—If the Secretary does not approve or deny a petition referred to in clause (i) on or before the last day of the 90-day period beginning on the date of submission of the petition, the petition shall be deemed approved.

(4) Future revisions of vessel incidental discharge standards; decennial reviews.—

(1) REVISED BALLAST WATER DISCHARGE STANDARDS; DECENNIAL REVIEWS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall complete a review, 10 years after the issuance of a final rule under subsection (b) and every 10 years thereafter, to determine whether further revision of the ballast water discharge standard would result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantial reduction in the risk of the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species.

(2) Revised standards for discharges other than ballast water.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, shall consider whether revising 1 or more other discharge standards for discharges covered by subsection (a)(2). The Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking to revise 1 or more of such discharge standards for discharges other than ballast water by December 31, 2026.

(2) Consideration of other factors.—In conducting a review under paragraph (1), the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator and the heads of other Federal agencies as the Secretary considers appropriate, shall consider the criteria under section 606(b)(2)(B).
The Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking to revise the current ballast water discharge standard after a decennial review if the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that revising the current ballast water discharge standard would result in a scientifically demonstrable and substantially greater risk of the introduction or establishment of aquatic nuisance species.

(d) ALTERNATIVE BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this title may be construed to preclude the Secretary from authorizing the use of alternate methods or means of managing ballast water, including flow-through exchange, empty/refill exchange, and transfer to treatment facilities in place of a vessel ballast water management system required under this section.

If the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator, determines that such means or methods would not pose a greater risk of introduction of aquatic nuisance species in navigable waters than the use of a ballast water management system that achieves the applicable ballast water discharge standard.

(e) GREAT LAKES REQUIREMENTS.—In addition to the other standards and requirements imposed by this section, in the case of a vessel that enters the Great Lakes through the St. Lawrence River after operating outside the exclusive economic zone of the United States, in consultation with the Administrator, shall establish a requirement that the vessel conduct saltwater flushing of all ballast water tanks onboard prior to entering the Great Lakes.

SEC. 606. TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY CERTIFICATION.

(a) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Beginning on the date that is 1 year after the date on which the requirements for testing protocols are issued under subsection (b), no manufacturer, or any manufacturer, of a ballast water management system shall sell, offer for sale, or introduce or deliver for introduction into interstate commerce, or import into the United States for sale or resale, a ballast water management system for a vessel unless it has been certified under this section.

(b) CERTIFICATION PROCESS.

(1) EVALUATION.—Upon application of a manufacturer, the Secretary shall evaluate a ballast water management system with respect to—

(A) the effectiveness of the management system in achieving the current ballast water discharge standard when installed on a vessel; (B) the compatibility with vessel design and operations; (C) the effect of the management system on vessel safety; (D) the impact on the environment; (E) the cost effectiveness; and (F) any other criteria the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) APPROVAL.—If after an evaluation under paragraph (1) the Secretary determines that the management system meets the criteria, the Secretary shall certify the management system for use on a vessel (or a class, type, or size of vessel).

(c) CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS.—If the Secretary certifies a ballast water management system, the Secretary shall issue a certificate to each owner and operator of a vessel on which the management system is installed.

(d) CERTIFICATIONS.—An owner or operator who receives a certificate under subsection (e) shall retain a copy of the certificate onboard the vessel and make the certificate available for inspection at all times while the owner or operator is utilizing the management system.

(g) BIODICLES.—The Secretary may not approve a ballast water management system under subsection (b) if—

(1) it uses a biocide or generates a biocide that is not approved by the Secretary; or

(2) any discharge into navigable waters that results from a vessel that is necessary to secure the safety of the vessel or to suppress a fire onboard the vessel or at a shoreside facility; or

(3) a vessel of the armed forces of a foreign nation when engaged in noncommercial service.

(b) BALLAST WATER DISCHARGES.—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any standards regarding a discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel under this title apply to—

(1) any discharge into navigable waters from a vessel authorized by an on-scene coordinator in accordance with part 300 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, or any equivalent policy or criteria for—

(A) the use of a biocide or generates a biocide that is not approved by the Secretary; or

(B) any discharge into navigable waters that results from a vessel that is necessary to secure the safety of the vessel or to suppress a fire onboard the vessel or at a shoreside facility; or

(c) BALLAST WATER DISCHARGES.—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any ballast water discharge standard under this title apply to—

(1) a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel determined by the Secretary to—

(A) operate exclusively within a geographically limited area; (B) take up and discharge ballast water exclusively within 1 Captain of the Port Zone established by the Coast Guard unless the Secretary determines such discharge poses a substantial risk of injury or death to human life or the establishment of an aquatic nuisance species; (C) operate pursuant to a geographic restriction issued as a condition under section 310 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, or an equivalent restriction issued by the Coast Guard; or

(2) any discharge into navigable waters that results from a vessel that is necessary to secure the safety of the vessel or to suppress a fire onboard the vessel or at a shoreside facility; or

(3) a vessel of the armed forces of a foreign nation when engaged in noncommercial service.

(b) BALLAST WATER DISCHARGES.—No permit shall be required or prohibition enforced under any other provision of law for, nor shall any ballast water discharge standard under this title apply to—

(1) a ballast water discharge incidental to the normal operation of a vessel determined by the Secretary to—

(A) operate exclusively within a geographically limited area; (B) take up and discharge ballast water exclusively within 1 Captain of the Port Zone established by the Coast Guard unless the Secretary determines such discharge poses a substantial risk of injury or death to human life or the establishment of an aquatic nuisance species; (C) operate pursuant to a geographic restriction issued as a condition under section 310 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, or an equivalent restriction issued by the Coast Guard; or

(2) any discharge into navigable waters that results from a vessel that is necessary to secure the safety of the vessel or to suppress a fire onboard the vessel or at a shoreside facility; or

(3) a vessel of the armed forces of a foreign nation when engaged in noncommercial service.
SEC. 613. SAVINGS PROVISION.

Any action taken by the Federal Government under this Act shall be in full compliance with its obligations under applicable provisions of international law.

SA 3171. Ms. HEITTKAMP submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. Murkowski. The amendment would provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 6. INCORPORATING RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW INTO NEW MAJOR RULES.

(a) Definitions.—In this section—

(1) the term ‘‘Administrator’’ means the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget;

(2) the terms ‘‘agency’’, ‘‘rule’’, and ‘‘rule making’’ have the meanings given those terms in section 551 of title 5, United States Code;

(3) the term ‘‘covered major rule’’ means any rule that is promulgated by an agency in accordance with authority provided under this Act or any amendments made by this Act; and

(4) the term ‘‘major rule’’ means any rule that the Administrator finds has resulted in or is likely to result in—

(A) an annual effect on the economy of $100,000,000 or more; or

(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individuals, industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or

(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or on the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets.

(b) MAJOR RULE FRAMEWORKS.—

(1) In general.—Beginning 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, when an agency publishes in the Federal Register a proposed or final covered major rule, the agency shall include a clear statement of the regulatory objectives of the covered major rule and a general description of how the agency intends to measure the effectiveness of the covered major rule; or

(B) a final covered major rule, the agency shall include a framework for assessing the effectiveness of the covered major rule, including metrics by which the agency can measure—

(i) the effectiveness and benefits of the covered major rule in producing the regulatory objectives of the covered major rule, including a summary of the societal benefit and cost of the covered major rule;

(ii) the methodology by which the agency plans to analyze the covered major rule, including metrics by which the agency can measure—

(I) the effectiveness and benefits of the covered major rule in producing the regulatory objectives of the covered major rule; and

(II) the impacts, including any costs, of the covered major rule on regulated and other impacted entities;

(iii) a plan for gathering data regarding the metrics described in clause (ii) on an ongoing basis, or at periodic times, including a methodology by which the agency shall include a framework for assessing the effectiveness of the covered major rule; or

(iv) a specific time frame, as appropriate to the covered major rule, not more than 10 years after the effective date of the covered major rule, under which the agency shall
conduct the assessment of the covered major rule in accordance with paragraph (2)(A).

(2) ASSESSMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each agency shall assess the covered major rule under paragraph (1)(B)(iii), using the methodology set forth in paragraph (1)(B)(ii) or any other appropriate methodology developed after the issuance of a final covered major rule to determine whether the regulatory objective was achieved, with respect to a covered major rule—

(i) to analyze how the actual benefits and costs of the covered major rule may have varied from those anticipated at the time the covered major rule was issued; and

(ii) to determine whether the covered major rule was issued; and

(I) the covered major rule is accomplishing its regulatory objective;

(II) the covered major rule has been rendered unnecessary, taking into consideration—

(aa) changes in the subject area affected by the covered major rule; and

(bb) whether the covered major rule overlaps, duplicates, or conflicts with other rules or, to the extent feasible, State and local government regulations;

(III) the covered major rule needs to be strengthened in order to accomplish the regulatory objective; and

(IV) other alternatives to the covered major rule or modification of the covered major rule could better achieve the regulatory objective while imposing a smaller burden on society or increase net benefits, taking into consideration any cost already incurred.

(B) DIFFERENT METHODOLOGY.—If an agency uses a methodology other than the methodology set forth in paragraph (1)(B)(ii) to assess data under subparagraph (A), the agency shall include as part of the notice required under subparagraph (D) an explanation of the changes in circumstances that necessitated the use of that other methodology.

(C) SUBSEQUENT ASSESSMENTS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), if, after an assessment of a covered major rule under subparagraph (A), an agency determines that the covered major rule will remain in effect with or without modification, the agency—

(I) determine a specific time, as appropriate to the covered major rule and not more than 10 years after the publication of the results of the assessment conducted under subparagraph (D), at which the agency shall conduct another assessment of the covered major rule in accordance with subparagraph (A); and

(ii) if the assessment conducted under subclause (I) does not result in a repeal of the covered major rule, periodically assess the covered major rule in accordance with subparagraph (A) to ensure the covered major rule continues to meet the regulatory objective.

(ii) EXEMPTION.—The Administrator may exempt an agency from conducting a subsequent assessment of a covered major rule under clause (i) if the Administrator determines that there is a foreseeable and apparent need for the covered major rule beyond the time frame required under clause (i).

(D) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which an agency completes an assessment of a covered major rule under subparagraph (A), the agency shall publish a notice of availability of the results of the assessment in the Federal Register, including the specific methodology used to determine whether the regulatory objective was achieved, with respect to a covered major rule under subparagraph (C)(i), if applicable.

(3) OMB OVERSIGHT.—The Administrator shall—

(A) issue guidance for agencies regarding the development of the framework under paragraph (1) and the conduct of the assessments under paragraph (2)(A); and

(B) oversee the timely compliance of agencies with this subsection.

(C) The results of each assessment conducted under paragraph (2)(A) are—

(i) published promptly on a centralized Federal website; and

(ii) noticed in the Federal Register in accordance with paragraph (2)(D).

(D) encourage and assist agencies to streamline and coordinate the assessment of covered major rules with similar or related regulatory objectives;

(E) exempt an agency from including the framework required under paragraph (1)(B) when publishing a final covered major rule, if the agency did not issue a notice of proposed rule making for the covered major rule in order to provide a timely response to an emergency or comply with a statutorily imposed deadline, in accordance with paragraph (5)(B); and

(F) extend the deadline specified by an agency for an assessment of a covered major rule under paragraph (1)(B)(iv) or paragraph (2)(C)(i)(I) for a period of not more than 90 days if the agency justifies why the agency is unable to complete the assessment by that deadline.

(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to affect—

(A) the authority of an agency to assess or modify a covered major rule or the rule of the agency earlier than the end of the time frame specified for the covered major rule under paragraph (1)(B)(iv); or

(B) any other provision of law that requires an agency to conduct retrospective reviews of rules issued by the agency.

(5) APPLICABILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—This subsection shall not apply to—

(i) a covered major rule of an agency for which the agency is required to conduct a retrospective review under another provision of law that meets or exceeds the requirements of this subsection, as determined by the Administrator;

(ii) interpretive rules, general statements of policy, or rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice; or

(iii) rules interpreted as interpretive rules.

(B) DIRECT AND INTERIM FINAL COVERED MAJOR RULE.—In the case of a covered major rule of an agency for which the agency is not required to conduct a retrospective review under paragraph (2)(A), the agency shall publish the framework required under paragraph (1)(B) in the Federal Register not later than 6 months after the date on which the agency publishes the final covered major rule.

(6) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Judicial review of agency compliance with this subsection is limited to—

(i) whether an agency published the framework for assessment of a covered major rule in accordance with paragraph (1); and

(ii) whether an agency completed and published the required assessment of a covered major rule in accordance with subparagraphs (A) and (D) of paragraph (2).

(B) REMEDY AVAILABLE.—In granting relief in an action under subparagraph (A), the court may only issue an order remanding the covered major rule to the agency to comply with paragraph (1) or subparagraph (A) of paragraph (2) on an expedited basis.

(C) EFFECTIVE DATE OF COVERED MAJOR RULE.—If, in an action brought under subparagraph (A)(i), a court determines that the covered major rule is not in compliance with this subsection, such rule shall take effect notwithstanding any other order issued by the court.

(D) ADMINISTRATOR.—Any determination, action, or inaction of the Administrator shall not be subject to judicial review.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The Administrator is authorized to carry out this section as such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.
Regional Offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs; 
“(viii) to minimize delays and obstacles to Indian energy development; and 
“(ix) to provide technical assistance to Indian tribes in the areas of energy-related 
engineering, environmental analysis, management, and oversight of energy development, 
assessment of energy development resources, proposals and financing, and development of 
conventional and renewable energy 
resources.

(E) RELATIONSHIP TO BUREAU OF INDIAN AF-
FAIRS AND OTHER AGENCIES OF THE DE-
PARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

“(i) In general.—The Office shall have the 
authority to review and approve all energy-
related matters for Indian tribes that select 
to use the Office under subparagraph (D), 
without subsequent or duplicative review and 
approval by other Agency or Regional 
Offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs or 
of other agencies of the Department of the 
Interior.

“(ii) Non-energy related matters.— 
Nothing in this paragraph affects the author-
ity of the Director or the Offices of the Bureau 
of Indian Affairs to oversee, support, and 
provide approvals for non-energy related 
matters.

“(iii) Regional and local services.— 
Nothing in this paragraph affects the authority 
or duty of Agency Offices of the Bureau 
of Indian Affairs and State and Field Offices 
of the Bureau of Land Management to pro-
vide regional or local services related to In-
dian energy development, including local re-
alty functions, on-site evaluations and in-
spections, direct services as requested by In-
dian tribes and individual Indians, and any 
other local functions related to energy develop-
ment on Indian land.

“(iv) Technical assistance.—The Office 
shall provide technical assistance and sup-
port to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the 
Bureau of Land Management in all areas re-
lated to energy development on Indian land.

(F) DESIGNATION OF INTERIOR STAFF—

“(i) In general.—The Secretary shall des-
ignate and transfer to the Office existing 
staff and resources from—

“(I) the Office of Energy and Mineral 
Development of the Office of Indian Energy and 
Economic Development and other applicable 
offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

“(II) the Bureau of Land Management;

“(III) the Office of Valuation Services;

“(IV) the Office of Natural Resources Re-
venue;

“(V) the United States Fish and Wildlife 
Service;

“(VI) the Office of Special Trustee;

“(VII) the Office of the Solicitor;

“(VIII) the Office of Surface Mining, in-
cluding mining engineering and minerals re-
alty specialists; and

“(IX) any other agency or office of the De-
partment of the Interior involved in energy 
development on Indian land.

“(ii) Functions.—Staff and resources 
transferred under clause (i) shall provide for—

“(I) review, processing, and approval of 
permits and regulatory matters under—

“(aa) the Act of February 5, 1948 (com-
monly known as the ’Indian Right-of-Way 
Act’) (25 U.S.C. 323 et seq.); 

“(bb) the Act of May 11, 1938 (com-
monly known as the ’Indian Mineral Leasing Act of 1938’ 
(25 U.S.C. 398a et seq.)); 

“(cc) the first section of the Act of August 
9, 1935 (25 U.S.C. 415); 


“(ee) the Surface Mining Control and Re-
clamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.); 

“(gg) part 162 of title 25, Code of Federal 
Regulations (relating to leases and permits) 
or (successor regulations);

“(hh) part 169 of title 25, Code of Federal 
Regulations (relating to rights-of-way over 
Indian lands) (or successor regulations); and

“(ii) the Act of June 28, 1906 (34 Stat. 539, 
chapter 3572) (commonly known as the ‘Osage Allotment Act’);

“(jj) the Act of May 11, 1938 (commonly 
known as the ’Osage Allotment Act’); 

“(kk) part 162 of title 25, Code of Federal 
Regulations (relating to leases and permits) 
or (successor regulations);

“(ll) the Act of June 28, 1906 (34 Stat. 539, 
chapter 3572) (commonly known as the ‘Osage Allotment Act’);

“(mm) the Act of February 5, 1948 (com-
monly known as the ’Indian Right-of-Way 
Act’); and

“(nn) the Act of June 28, 1906 (34 Stat. 539, 
chapter 3572) (commonly known as the ‘Osage Allotment Act’).

“(ii) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall des-
ign the Office to—

“(I) support the activities of the Office 
with personnel and resources transferred 
under this section.

“(II) be managed in accordance with Fed-
eral statutes and regulations; and

“(III) carry out activities of the Office 
in accordance with the policies of the De-
partment.

“(iii) Management of Indian land.— 
“(A) Definitions.—In this section, the term ‘Indian land’ means—

“(I) the number and type of Federal ap-
provals granted;

“(II) the time taken to process each type of 
application;

“(III) the need for additional similar off-
ices to be located in other regions; and

“(IV) proposed changes in existing law to 
facilitate the development of energy re-
sources on Indian land and improve 
oversight of energy development on 
Indian land.

“(L) COORDINATION WITH ADDITIONAL FED-
ERAL AGENCIES.—Not later than 1 year after the 
Office begins operations, the Secretary shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to coordinate and streamline energy-related 
permits with—

“(i) the Administrator of the Environ-
mental Protection Agency;

“(ii) the Assistant Secretary for the Army 
for Civil Works; and

“(iii) the Secretary of Agriculture.”.

SA 3173. Ms. HITEKAMP (for herself 
and Mr. BOOKER) submitted an amend-
ment intended to be proposed to amendment 
SA 2953 as ordered to the bill S. 2012, to pro-
vide for the modernization of the energy 
policy of the United States, and for other 
purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 302, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

SEC. 3401. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON CARBON 
CAPTURE, USE, AND STORAGE DE-
VELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) carbon capture, use, and storage 
deployment is—

(A) an important part of clean energy future 
and smart research and development invest-
ments of the United States; 

(B) critical to—

(i) increasing the energy security of the 
United States;

(ii) to reducing emissions; and 

(iii) to maintaining a diverse and reliable 
energy resource;

(2) the fossil energy programs of the De-
partment should continue to focus on re-
search and development of technologies that 
will improve the capture, transportation, 
use, including for the production, through 
biofixation, of carbon-containing products, 
and injection processes essential for carbon 
capture, use, and storage activities in the 
electrical and industrial sectors;

(3) the Secretary should continue to part-
tner with the private sector and explore 
avenues to bring down the cost of carbon cap-
ture, including through loans, grants, and se-
questration credits to help make carbon cap-
ture, use, and storage technologies more 
competitive compared to other technologies 
that are a part of the clean energy future of the 
United States; and

(4) the Secretary should continue to work 
on existing, and expand on, international 
partnerships, agreements, projects, and in-
formation sharing activities of the Secretary 
to develop the latest and most cutting-edge 
carbon capture, use, and storage tech-
ologies for the electrical and industrial sec-
tors.

On page 302, line 15, strike ‘‘3401’’ and 
insert ‘‘3402’’.

On page 302, line 21, strike ‘‘3402’’ and 
insert ‘‘3403’’.

On page 311, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

SEC. 3404. CONTRACTING AUTHORITY OF SEC-
RETARY.

(a) DEFINITION OF ELECTRIC GENERATION UNIT. 
In this section, the term ‘electric generation 
unit’ means an electric genera-

search and development of technologies that will improve the capture, transportation, use (including for the production through bio-fixation of carbon-containing products), and storage essential for carbon capture, use, and storage activities in the electrical and industrial sectors;
(3) the Secretary should continue to partner with the Secretary to develop the latest and most cutting-edge carbon capture, use, and storage technologies more competitive compared to other technologies that are a part of the clean energy future of the United States; and
(4) the Secretary should continue working with international partners on pre-existing agreements, projects, and information sharing activities of the Secretary to develop the latest and most cutting-edge carbon capture, use, and storage technologies for the electrical and industrial sectors.
On page 302, line 15, strike “3401” and insert “3402”
On page 302, line 21, strike “3402” and insert “3403”

On page 311, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

SECTION 3404. REPORT ON PRICE STABILIZATION SUPPORT.
(a) Definition of Electric Generation Unit.—In this section, the term “electric generation unit” means an electric generation unit that:
(1) uses coal-based generation technology; and
(2) is capable of capturing carbon dioxide emissions from the unit.
(b) Report.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a report detailing:
(1) on the benefits and costs of entering into contracts to utilize the electric generation unit or carbon dioxide from electricity generated at an electric generation unit or carbon dioxide captured and sold to a purchaser for—
(A) the recovery of crude oil; or
(B) other purposes for which a commercial market exists; and
(2) that—
(A) contains an analysis of how the Department would establish, implement, and maintain the price stabilization contracting program described in this section; and
(B) outlines options for how price stabilization contracts under this section may be structured.
(c) Regulations.—Not later than 180 days after submission of the report under subsection (b), the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to establish and implement the price stabilization contracting program described in this section.
(d) Notification.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall implement the price stabilization contracting program described in this section, the term “electric generation unit” means an electric generation unit that:
(1) uses coal-based generation technology; and
(2) is capable of capturing carbon dioxide emissions from the unit.

SA 3174. Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 302, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

SEC. 3401. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON CARBON CAPTURE, USE, AND STORAGE DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT.
It is the sense of the Senate that—
(1) carbon capture, use, and storage deployment is—
(A) an important part of the clean energy future and smart research and development investments of the United States; and
(B) critical—
(i) to increasing the energy security of the United States;
(ii) to reducing emissions; and
(iii) to maintaining a diverse and reliable energy mix at lower costs.
(2) the fossil energy programs of the Department should continue to focus on research and development of technologies that will improve the capture, transportation, use (including for the production through bio-fixation of carbon-containing products), and storage essential for carbon capture, use, and storage activities in the electrical and industrial sectors;
(3) the Secretary should continue to partner with the Secretary to develop the latest and most cutting-edge carbon capture, use, and storage technologies more competitive compared to other technologies that are a part of the clean energy future of the United States; and
(4) the Secretary should continue working with international partners on pre-existing agreements, projects, and information sharing activities of the Secretary to develop the latest and most cutting-edge carbon capture, use, and storage technologies for the electrical and industrial sectors.

SA 3175. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title IV, add the following:

SEC. 44. WILD HORSES IN AND AROUND THE CURRITUCK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.
(a) Agreement Required.—
(1) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the Corolla Wild Horse Fund (a nonprofit corporation established under the laws of the State of North Carolina, the County of Currituck, North Carolina, and the State of North Carolina to provide for the modernization of the Currituck National Wild Horse Fund (a nonprofit corporation established under the laws of the State of North Carolina, the County of Currituck, North Carolina, and the State of North Carolina to provide for the modernization of the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge).
(2) Terms.—The agreement shall—
(A) allow for a herd of not less than 110 and not more than 130 free-roaming wild horses in and around the refuge, with a target population of between 120 and 130 free-roaming wild horses;
(B) provide for cost-effective management of the horses while ensuring that natural restrictions within the refuge are not adversely impacted;
(C) provide for introduction of a small number of free-roaming wild horses from the Corolla Banks Horse Herd signed in January 2006 (or any successor management plan).

SEC. 45. WILDLIFE AND HERITAGE PRESERVATION.
(a) Program Authority.—(1) In General.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the Corolla Wild Horse Fund (a nonprofit corporation established under the laws of the State of North Carolina, the County of Currituck, North Carolina, and the State of North Carolina to provide for the modernization of the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge).
(2) Terms.—The agreement shall—
(A) allow for a herd of not less than 110 and not more than 130 free-roaming wild horses in and around the refuge, with a target population of between 120 and 130 free-roaming wild horses;
(B) provide for cost-effective management of the horses while ensuring that natural restrictions within the refuge are not adversely impacted;
(C) provide for introduction of a small number of free-roaming wild horses from the Corolla Banks Horse Herd signed in January 2006 (or any successor management plan).

SA 3176. Mr. SCHÄTZ (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 302, line 15, strike “3401” and insert “3402”
On page 302, line 21, strike “3402” and insert “3403”

On page 311, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

SECTION 3404. REPORT ON PRICE STABILIZATION SUPPORT.
(a) Definition of Electric Generation Unit.—In this section, the term “electric generation unit” means an electric generation unit that:
(1) uses coal-based generation technology; and
(2) is capable of capturing carbon dioxide emissions from the unit.
(b) Report.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a report detailing:
(1) on the benefits and costs of entering into contracts to utilize the electric generation unit or carbon dioxide captured and sold to a purchaser for—
(A) the recovery of crude oil; or
(B) other purposes for which a commercial market exists; and
(2) that—
(A) contains an analysis of how the Department would establish, implement, and maintain the price stabilization contracting program described in this section; and
(B) outlines options for how price stabilization contracts under this section may be structured.
(c) Regulations.—Not later than 180 days after submission of the report under subsection (b), the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to establish and implement the price stabilization contracting program described in this section.
(d) Notification.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall implement the price stabilization contracting program described in this section, the term “electric generation unit” means an electric generation unit that:
(1) uses coal-based generation technology; and
(2) is capable of capturing carbon dioxide emissions from the unit.

SA 3175. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 302, line 15, strike “3401” and insert “3402”
On page 302, line 21, strike “3402” and insert “3403”

On page 311, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

SECTION 3404. REPORT ON PRICE STABILIZATION SUPPORT.
(a) Definition of Electric Generation Unit.—In this section, the term “electric generation unit” means an electric generation unit that:
(1) uses coal-based generation technology; and
(2) is capable of capturing carbon dioxide emissions from the unit.
(b) Report.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a report detailing:
(1) on the benefits and costs of entering into contracts to utilize the electric generation unit or carbon dioxide captured and sold to a purchaser for—
(A) the recovery of crude oil; or
(B) other purposes for which a commercial market exists; and
(2) that—
(A) contains an analysis of how the Department would establish, implement, and maintain the price stabilization contracting program described in this section; and
(B) outlines options for how price stabilization contracts under this section may be structured and regulations that would be necessary to implement a contracting program described in paragraph (1).
At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 4. PHASE OUT OF TAX PREFERENCES FOR FOSSIL FUELS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) United States tax policy has provided tax preferences, such as special deductions, special tax rates, tax credits, and grants in lieu of tax credits, for oil and gas production for over 100 years.

(2) United States tax policy has provided tax preferences for coal production for over 80 years.

(3) In order to ensure that all sources of energy compete on an equal footing, as tax credits for renewable energy are phased out over a 10 year period, fossil fuel tax preferences should be phased out on the same schedule.

(b) EXPENSING OF INTANGIBLE DRILLING COSTS.—Section 263 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by striking “subsection (i)” and inserting “subsections (i) and (j)”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

((1) PHASE OUT OF DEDUCTION FOR INTANGIBLE DRILLING COSTS.—In the case of a dual capacity taxpayer which is a major integrated oil company (within the meaning of section 167(h)(5)), for any intangible drilling and development expenditures paid or incurred after December 31, 2019 (without regard to this subparagraph) shall be reduced by—

(i) in the case of any oil related qualified production activities income received or accrued after December 31, 2018, and before January 1, 2019, 20 percent,

(ii) in the case of any oil related qualified production activities income received or accrued after December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2019, 40 percent,

(iii) in the case of any oil related qualified production activities income received or accrued after December 31, 2016, and before January 1, 2020, 60 percent, and

(iv) in the case of any oil related qualified production activities income received or accrued after December 31, 2015, and before January 1, 2020, 100 percent.

(c) PERCENTAGE DEPLETION FOR OIL AND NATURAL GAS WELLS.—Section 613(a)(d) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

((6) PHASE OUT OF PERCENTAGE DEPLETION FOR OIL AND NATURAL GAS WELLS.—In the case of a dual capacity taxpayer which is a major integrated oil company (within the meaning of section 167(h)(5)), the amount of depletion deduced under section 613(a)(d) of such Code is reduced by—

(i) in the case of any such expenditures paid or incurred after December 31, 2019, 100 percent.

(d) DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING DEDUCTION FOR FOSSIL FUELS.—Section 45I(d) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

((2) PHASE OUT OF DEDUCTION FOR DOMESTIC MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES INCOME.—In the case of a dual capacity taxpayer which is a major integrated oil company (within the meaning of section 167(h)(5)), the amount of taxable domestic manufacturing income allowable as a deduction under subsection (a) (determined after the application of subparagraph (A) and without regard to this subparagraph) shall be reduced by—

(i) in the case of any oil related qualified production activities income received or accrued after December 31, 2018, and before January 1, 2019, 20 percent,

(ii) in the case of any oil related qualified production activities income received or accrued after December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2019, 40 percent,

(iii) in the case of any oil related qualified production activities income received or accrued after December 31, 2016, and before January 1, 2020, 60 percent, and

(iv) in the case of any oil related qualified production activities income received or accrued after December 31, 2015, and before January 1, 2020, 100 percent.

(e) EXPENSING OF EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS FOR OIL SHALE.—Section 617 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

((6) PHASE OUT OF AMORTIZATION OF GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL EXPENDITURES.—Section 167(h)(5) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

(f) PERCENTAGE DEPLETION FOR OIL SHALE.—Section 613 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

((4) PHASE OUT OF PERCENTAGE DEPLETION FOR OIL SHALE.—In the case of a dual capacity taxpayer which is a major integrated oil company (within the meaning of section 167(h)(5)), the allowance for depletion for oil shale determined under this section (without regard to this subsection) shall be reduced by—

(i) in the case of any such expenditures paid or incurred after December 31, 2019, 100 percent.

(g) EXPENSING OF GIBLE DRILLING COSTS.—Section 263 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

((c) DEDUCTION FOR TERTIARY INJECTIONS.—Section 40(b) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

((1) PHASE OUT OF DEDUCTION FOR TERTIARY INJECTIONS.—In the case of a dual capacity taxpayer which is a major integrated oil company (within the meaning of section 167(h)(5)), the amount of any such loss after December 31, 2019, and before January 1, 2020, 60 percent, and

(h) CAPITAL GAINS TREATMENT FOR ROYALTIES OF COAL.—Section 631 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

((h) PHASE OUT OF MARGINAL WELLS CREDITS.—Section 45(b)(d) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

((k) MARGINAL WELLS CREDIT.—Section 45I(d) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

((2) PHASE OUT OF MARGINAL WELLS CREDIT.—In the case of a dual capacity taxpayer which is a major integrated oil company (within the meaning of section 167(h)(5)), the amount of the credit determined under section (k) shall be reduced by—

(i) in the case of any such expenditures paid or incurred after December 31, 2018, and before January 1, 2019, 20 percent,

(ii) in the case of any such expenditures paid or incurred after December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2019, 40 percent,

(iii) in the case of any such expenditures paid or incurred after December 31, 2016, and before January 1, 2020, 60 percent, and

(iv) in the case of any such expenditures paid or incurred after December 31, 2015, and before January 1, 2020, 100 percent.

(j) EXCEPTION TO PASSIVE LOSS LIMITATION FOR WORKING INTERESTS IN OIL AND NATURAL GAS PROPERTIES.—Section 461(c)(7)(H) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

((2) PHASE OUT OF EXCEPTIION TO PASSIVE LOSS LIMITATION FOR WORKING INTERESTS IN OIL AND NATURAL GAS PROPERTIES.—In the case of a dual capacity taxpayer which is a major integrated oil company (within the meaning of section 167(h)(5)), for any loss from a working interest in any oil or gas property, the amount of such loss to which paragraph (3) applies shall be reduced by—

(i) in the case of any such losses paid or incurred after December 31, 2019, 100 percent.


“(B) in the case of any qualified crude oil production or qualified natural gas production after December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2019, 40 percent,”

“(C) in the case of any qualified crude oil production or qualified natural gas production after December 31, 2018, and before January 1, 2020, 60 percent; and

“(D) in the case of any qualified crude oil production or qualified natural gas production after December 31, 2019, 100 percent.”

SA 3177. Ms. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policies of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE VI—PROTECTING AND ENHANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR HUNTING, FISHING, AND RECREATIONAL SHOOTING

Subtitle A—National Policy

SEC. 6001. CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF NATIONAL POLICY.

(a) In General. This title declares that it is the policy of the United States that Federal departments and agencies, in accordance with the missions of the departments and agencies, Executive Orders 12962 and 13443 (60 Fed. Reg. 30769 (June 7, 1995); 72 Fed. Reg. 46537 (August 16, 2007)), and applicable law, shall—

(1) facilitate the expansion and enhancement of hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting opportunities on Federal land, in consultation with the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, State and tribal fish and wildlife agencies, and the public;

(2) conserve and enhance aquatic systems and the management of game species and the habitat of those species on Federal land, including through hunting and fishing, in a manner that respects—

(A) State management authority over wildlife resources; and

(B) private property rights; and

(3) foster cooperation among Federal, State, and local governments, and among Federal, State, and local offices, chapters, and affiliates and organizations in the management of hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting opportunities as part of all Federal plans for land, resource, and travel management.

(4) Conservation—In this title, the term “fishing” does not include commercial fishing in which fish are harvested, either in whole or in part, that are intended to enter commerce through sale.

Subtitle B—Sportsmen’s Access to Federal Land

SEC. 6001. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land” means—

(A) any land in the National Forest System (as defined in section 131 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732); the Bureau of Land Management, and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1609(a))) that is administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(B) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702)), the Forest Service, which is administered by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Secretary concerned” means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land described in paragraph (1)(A); and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land described in paragraph (1)(B).

SEC. 6012. FEDERAL LAND OPEN TO HUNTING, FISHING, AND RECREATIONAL SHOOTING.

(a) Authorization.—

(1) In general.—Subject to subsection (b), Federal land shall be open to hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting, in accordance with applicable law, unless the Secretary concerned closes an area in accordance with section 6013.

(b) Effect of Subtitle.—Nothing in this subtitle opens to hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting any land that is not open to those activities as of the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6013. CLOSURE OF FEDERAL LAND TO HUNTING, FISHING, AND RECREATIONAL SHOOTING.

(a) Authorization.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2) and in accordance with section 302(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1732(b)), the Secretary concerned may designate any area on Federal land in which, and establish any period during which, for reasons of public safety, administration, or compliance with applicable laws, no hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting shall be permitted.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—In making a designation under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall determine the smallest area for the least amount of time that is required for public safety, administration, or compliance with applicable laws.

(b) CLOSURE PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except in an emergency, before permanently or temporarily closing any Federal land to hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting, the Secretary concerned shall—

(A) consult with State fish and wildlife agencies; and

(B) provide public notice and opportunity for comment under paragraph (2).

(2) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Public notice and comment shall include—

(i) a notice of intent—

(aa) in the Federal Register; and

(bb) on the website of the applicable Federal agency; and

(cc) on the website of the Federal land unit, if available; and

(dd) in at least 1 local newspaper;

(ii) made available in advance of the public comment period for the closure—

(aa) in the Federal Register; and

(bb) in at least 1 local newspaper;

(iii) a survey of—

(A) the aggregate areas and acreage covered by a special use permit.

(b) TEMPORARY CLOSURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A temporary closure shall not be subject to a closure under this section.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—In a final decision to temporarily close an area in accordance with subsection (b)(2), the Secretary concerned must be subject to a separate notice and comment procedure in accordance with subsection (b)(2).

(c) TEMPORARY CLOSURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A temporary closure under this section may not exceed a period of 180 days.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Except in an emergency, a temporary closure for the same area of land closed to the same activities—

(A) may not be renewed more than 3 times after the first temporary closure; and

(B) must be subject to a separate notice and comment procedure in accordance with subsection (b)(2).

(3) EFFECT OF TEMPORARY CLOSURE.—Any Federal land that is temporarily closed to hunting, fishing, or recreational shooting under this section shall not become permanently closed to that activity without a separate public notice and opportunity to comment in accordance with subsection (b)(2).

(d) REPORTING.—On an annual basis, the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) publish on a public website a list of all areas of Federal land temporarily or permanently subject to a closure under this section; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the House of Representatives a report that identifies—

(A) a list of each area of Federal land temporarily or permanently subject to a closure; and

(B) the acreage of each closure; and

(C) a survey of the aggregate areas and acreage closed under this section in each State; and

(3) the percentage of Federal land in each State closed under this section with respect to hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting.

(e) APPLICATION.—This section shall not apply if the closure is—

(1) less than 14 days in duration; and

(2) covered by a special use permit.

SEC. 6014. SHOOTING RANGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary concerned may, in accordance with this section and other applicable law, lease or permit the use of Federal land for a shooting range.

(b) APPLICATION.—The Secretary concerned shall not lease or permit the use of Federal land for a shooting range, within—

(1) a component of the National Landscape Conservation System;

(2) a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(3) any area that is—

(A) designated as a wilderness study area; or

(B) administratively classified as—

(aa) wilderness-eligible; or

(bb) wilderness-suicide; or

(cc) a primitive or semiprimitive area; or

(dd) a national monument, national volcanic monument, or national scenic area; or

(4) a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; or

(5) a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System designated for study for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

SEC. 6015. FEDERAL ACTION TRANSPARENCY.

(1) MODIFICATION OF EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROVISIONS.—

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

(A) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “United States Code”; and

(B) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(1)(1) Not later than March 31 of the first fiscal year beginning after the enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, and every fiscal year thereafter,
the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, after consultation with the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, shall submit, to the extent practicable, a publicly available online report on the amount of fees and other expenses awarded during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to this subsection.

"(2) Each report under paragraph (1) shall describe the number, nature, and amount of the awards, the claims involved in the controversy, and any other relevant information that may aid Congress in evaluating the scope and impact of such awards.

"(3)(A) Each report under 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 a nondisclosure provision.

"(B) The disclosure of fees and other expenses required under subparagraph (A) shall not affect any other information that is subject to a nondisclosure provision in a settlement agreement.

"(4) As soon as practicable, and in any event not later than the date on which the first report under subsection (e)(1) is required to be submitted, the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States shall create and maintain online a searchable database containing, with respect to each award of fees and other expenses under this section made on or after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, the following information:

"(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 as such party is identified in the order or other court document making the award.

"(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.

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

"(H) 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 concerning the requirements of paragraphs (5), (6), and (7).

"(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary shall:

"(B) by striking ‘‘Secretary’’ with respect to land (except land in a System unit as defined in section 100102 of title 31 for a judgment in the case; and maintaining online a searchable database containing, with respect to each award of fees and other expenses under this section made on or after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, the following information:

"(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 as such party is identified in the order or other court document making the award.

"(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.

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

"(IV) the disclosure of fees and other expenses required under this section made on or after the date of enactment of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016, the following information:

"(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 as such party is identified in the order or other court document making the award.

"(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.

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

"(II) the holder of the commercial use authorization or special recreation permit; and

"(3) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2102 of title 30, United States Code, is amended by striking ‘‘subsection (d), if the activity—

"(1) is conducted by a crew of not more than 3 individuals; and

"(2) is conducted by a crew of not more than 3 individuals; and

"is calculated by the Secretary, in consultation with the respective jurisdiction of the Secretary.’’;

"(2) the holder of the commercial use authorization or special recreation permit is an individual or small business concerned (within the meaning of section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632));

"(iii) the disclosure of fees and other expenses paid representing any ancillary liability, including attorney fees, costs, and interest.

"(5) A brief description of the facts that gave rise to the claim.

"(6) The name of the agency that submitted the claim.

"Subtitle C—Logging on Federal Land

Management Agency Land

SEC. 6021. COMMERCIAL FILMING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of Public Law 106–206 (16 U.S.C. 460l–6d) is amended—

"(1) by redesignating paragraphs (a) through (f) as subsections (a) through (g), respectively;

"(2) by inserting before subsection (b) (as so redesignated) the following:

"(a) DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Interior, or the Chief Financial Officer of the United States, as applicable, with respect to land under the respective jurisdiction of the Secretary.’’;

"(3) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

"(A) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) by striking ‘‘the Secretary’’ with respect to land (except land in a System unit as defined in section 100102 of title 30, United States Code) under its respective jurisdiction of the Secretary.’’;

"(4) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated), in the second sentence, by striking ‘‘subsection (a)’’ and inserting ‘‘subsection (b)’’;

"(5) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated), in the heading, by inserting ‘‘Commercial’’ before ‘‘Still’’;

"(6) in paragraph (1) of subsection (f) (as so redesignated), by inserting ‘‘in accordance with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (16 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.),’’ after ‘‘without further appropriation’’;

"(7) in subsection (g) (as so redesignated)—

"(A) by striking ‘‘The Secretary shall’’ and inserting the following:

"(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(C) EXEMPTION FROM COMMERCIAL FILMING OR STILL PHOTOGRAPHY PERMITS AND FEES.—The Secretary shall not require persons holding commercial use authorizations or special recreation permits to obtain an additional permit or pay a fee for commercial filming or still photography under this Act if the filming or photography conducted is—

"(1) incidental to the permitted activity that is the subject of the commercial use authorization or special recreation permit; and

"(2) the holder of the commercial use authorization or special recreation permit is an individual or small business concerned (within the meaning of section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632));

"(D) EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN FEES.—Commercial filming or commercial still photography shall be exempt from fees under this Act, but not from recovery of costs under subsection (c) (as so redesignated) if the activity—

"(1) is conducted by an entity that is a small business concern (within the meaning of section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632));

"(2) is conducted by a crew of not more than 3 individuals; and

"(3) in subsection (b), if the activity—

"(1) is conducted by a crew of not more than 3 individuals; and

"(2) is conducted by a crew of not more than 3 individuals; and
At a minimum, the gathering, recording, and assistance under subsection (a) shall be subject to
TEERS.—Qualified volunteers providing assistance under subsection (a) shall be subject to—
"(1) any training requirements or qualifications established by the Secretary; and
"(2) any other terms and conditions that the Secretary may require."
(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1049 of title 54, United States Code, as amended by the item relating to section 104909 the following:
"104910. Wildlife management in parks.
SEC. 6031. IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RECREATION, HUNTING, AND FISHING ON FEDERAL LAND.
(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
"(1) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means—
"(A) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to land administered by—
"(i) the Director of the National Park Service;
"(ii) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and
"(iii) the Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and
"(B) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to land administered by the Chief of the Forest Service.
"(2) STATE OR REGIONAL OFFICE.—The term "State or regional office" means—
"(A) a State office of the Bureau of Land Management; or
"(B) a regional office of—
"(i) the National Park Service;
"(ii) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; or
"(iii) the Forest Service.
"(3) TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term "travel management plan" means a plan for the management of travel—
"(A) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, on park roads and designated routes under section 101(a) of title 16, United States Code (as amended by section 5001(b)), and
"(B) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, on or off of the travel management plan developed under section 6.10 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as successor regulations); and
"(C) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, on National Forest System land under part 212 of title 16, Code of Federal Regulations (as successor regulations); and
"(D) with respect to land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, under a resource management plan developed under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 171 et seq.).
"(E) PRIORITY LISTS REQUIRED.—
"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, annually, during the 10-year period beginning on the date on which the first priority list is completed, and every 5 years after the end of the 10-year period, the Secretary shall prepare a priority list, to be made publicly available on the applicability Federal agency referred to in subsection (a)(1), which shall identify the location and acreage of land within the jurisdiction of each State, or regional office on which the public is allowed, under Federal or State law, hunting, fishing, or recreation purposes but—
"(A) to which there is no public access or egress or
"(B) to which public access or egress to the legal boundaries of the land is significantly restricted, including the extent of the restriction,
"(2) MINIMUM SIZE.—Any land identified under paragraph (1) shall consist of contiguous acres of at least 1,040 acres.
"(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In preparing the priority list required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider with respect to the land—
"(A) whether access is absent or merely restricted, including the extent of the restriction;
"(B) the likelihood of resolving the absence of or restriction of access;
"(C) the potential for recreational use;
"(D) any information received from the public or other stakeholders during the nomination process described in subparagraph (5); and
"(E) any other factor as determined by the Secretary.
(A) in subsection (a), by striking "(as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act)"; and
(B) by striking subsection (d); and
(iii) by striking section 207(b) (43 U.S.C. 2306(b))—
(A) in paragraph (1)—
(i) by striking "96–586" and inserting "96–586"; and
(ii) by striking "; or" and inserting a semicolon;
(B) in paragraph (2)—
(i) by inserting "Public Law 105–263;" before "112 Stat. ;" and
(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and
(C) by adding at the end the following:
"(3) the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–432; 120 Stat. 3026);
"(4) the Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–424; 118 Stat. 2455);
"(5) substitute F of title I of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; Public Law 111–11); and
"(6) substitute O of title I of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (16 U.S.C. 460www note, 1132 note; Public Law 111–11);
"(7) section 2601 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–12; 123 Stat. 1108); or
"(8) section 2606 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–12; 123 Stat. 1211)."

(b) FUNDS TO TREASURY.—Of the amounts deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Account, there shall be transferred to the general fund of the Treasury $1,000,000,000 for each fiscal year 2016 through 2025.

Subtitle F—Miscellaneous

SEC. 6051. TREATIES AND RIGHTS.

Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title—
(a) affects or modifies any treaty or other right of any federally recognized Indian tribe; or
(b) modifies any provision of Federal law relating to migratory birds or to endangered or threatened species.

SEC. 6052. NO PRIORITY.

Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title provides a preference to any Federal fund of the Treasury $1,000,000 for each agency, including the vehicle fleets of the United States Postal Service and the Department of Defense, and submit to Congress a report that describes—
(i) for each Federal agency, which types of transportation technology the agency uses that would or would not be suitable for near-term and medium-term conversion to electric transportation technology; taking into account the types of transportation technology for which electric transportation technology could provide comparable functionality and lifecycle costs; (ii) how many plug-in electric drive vehicles and other electric transportation technologies could be deployed by the Federal Government in the 5-year-period and the 10-year-period following the date of the report; assuming that electric transportation technologies are available and are purchased when new transportation technologies are needed or existing transportation technologies are replaced;
(iii) the estimated cost to the Federal Government, including estimated fuel and operating costs savings over the life of the transportation technology and the estimated payback period, for transportation technology purchases under clause (ii);
(iv) a description of any updates to the assessment and report based on new market data; and
(v) a description of—
(I) how the United States Postal Service is carrying out the fleet of Long Life Vehicles of the United States Postal Service; and
(II) what steps are being taken to ensure that—
(aa) the procurement takes advantage of new fuel saving technologies through regular transition of the fleet; and
(bb) best industrial practices that take into account fuel efficiency, including the use of electric transport technology, are followed.

3. INVENTORY AND DATA COLLECTION.—(A) In general.—In carrying out the assessment and report under paragraph (2), the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, shall—
(i) develop a plan to deploy electric transportation technologies in the Federal fleet;
(ii) establish guidelines for each Federal agency to use in developing a plan to deploy electric transportation technologies.

4. PILOT PROGRAM TO DEPLOY ELECTRIC TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGIES IN THE FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY FLEET.—(A) In general.—The Administrator of General Services shall acquire electric transportation technologies and the requisite charging infrastructure to be deployed in a range of locations in the Federal fleet during the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) DATA COLLECTION.—The Administrator of General Services shall collect data regarding—
(i) the cost, performance, and use of electric transportation technologies in the Federal fleet;
(ii) the deployment and integration of electric transportation technologies in the Federal fleet;

5. FEDERAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Electricity consumed by Federal agencies to fuel electric transportation technologies shall be—
(A) considered to be an alternative fuel as defined in—
(i) section 400AA(g) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6274(g)); and
(ii) section 301 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13211); and

SA 3178. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. Hoeven, and Mr. Warner) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. Murkowski to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 174, line 5, insert”, electric thermal, electromechanical,” after “materials”.

SA 3180. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. Graham) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. Murkowski to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:
TITLE VI—METAL THEFT PREVENTION ACT

SEC. 6001. SHORT TITLE.
This title may be cited as the “Metal Theft Prevention Act of 2016”.

SEC. 6002. DEFINITIONS.
In this title—
(1) the term ‘‘critical infrastructure’’ has the meaning given the term in section 1001(e) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6811(e));
(2) the term ‘‘specified metal’’ means metal that—
(A)(i) is marked with the name, logo, or initials of a city, county, state, or Federal government or railroad, and electric, gas, or water company, a telephone company, a cable company, a retail establishment, a beer supplier or distributor, or a public utility; or
(B) is part of—
(i) a street light pole or street light fixture;
(ii) a road or bridge guard rail;
(iii) a highway or street sign;
(iv) a water meter cover;
(v) a water meter;
(vi) unused or undamaged building construction or utility material;
(vii) a historical marker;
(viii) a grave marker or cemetery urn;
(ix) a utility access cover; or
(x) a container used to transport or store beer with a capacity of 5 gallons or more;
(C) is a wire or cable commonly used by communications and electrical utilities; or
(D) is copper, aluminum, and other metal (including any metal combined with other materials) that is valuable for recycling or reuse as raw metal, except for—
(i) aluminum cans; and
(ii) motor vehicles, the purchases of which are reported to the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (established under section 36502 of title 49, United States Code); and
(3) the term ‘‘recycling agent’’ means any person engaged in the business of purchasing specified metal for reuse or recycling, without regard to whether that person is engaged in the business of recycling or otherwise processing the purchased specified metal for reuse.

SEC. 6003. THEFT OF SPECIFIED METAL.
(a) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful to knowingly steal specified metal—
(1) being used in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, or
(2) the theft of which is from and harms critical infrastructure.
(b) PENALTY.—Any person who commits an offense described in subsection (a) shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both.

SEC. 6004. DOCUMENTATION OF OWNERSHIP OR AUTHORITY TO SELL.
(a) OFFENSES.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), it shall be unlawful for a recycling agent to purchase specified metal described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of section 6002(2), unless—
(A) the seller, at the time of the transaction, provides evidence of ownership of, or other proof of the authority of the seller to sell, the specified metal; and
(B) there is a reasonable basis to believe that the property was stolen.
(b) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to a recycling agent that is subject to a State or local law that sets forth a requirement on recycling agents to obtain documentation of ownership or proof of authority to sell specified metal before purchasing specified metal.

SEC. 6005. ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.
The Attorney General may bring an enforcement action in an appropriate United States district court against any person that engages in conduct that violates this title.

SEC. 6006. ENFORCEMENT BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.
(a) IN General.—An attorney general or equivalent regulator of a State may bring a civil action in the name of the State or other competent court having jurisdiction over the defendant, to assure monetary or equitable relief for a violation of this title.
(b) NOTICE REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days before the date on which an action under subsection (a) is filed, the attorney general or equivalent regulator of the State involved shall provide to the Attorney General—
(1) written notice of the action; and
(2) a copy of the complaint for the action.
(c) ATTORNEY GENERAL ACTION.—Upon receiving notice under subsection (b), the Attorney General shall have the right—
(1) to intervene; and
(2) upon so intervening, to be heard on all matters arising therein;
(3) to remove the action to an appropriate district court of the United States; and
(4) to file petitions for appeal.
(d) PENDING FEDERAL PROCEEDINGS.—If a civil action has been instituted by the Attorney General under this title, no State may, during the pendency of the action instituted by the Attorney General, institute a civil action under this title against any defendant named in the complaint in the civil action for any violation alleged in the complaint.
(e) CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of bringing a civil action under subsection (a), nothing in this section regarding notification shall be construed to prevent the attorney general or equivalent regulator of the State from exercising any power conferred under the laws of that State to—
(1) conduct investigations; and
(2) administer oaths or affirmations; or
(f) DEFINITIONS.—
(A) IN General.—The term ‘‘critical infrastructure’’ has the meaning given the term in section 1001(e) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6811(e)).
(B) IN General.—Any physical change in an existing source, or in the method of operation of an existing source, that increases the efficiency of the existing source or reduces mass emissions of the existing source that are subject to the provisions of this Act (as compared to the average annual emissions of the existing source in any 1 of the 10 most recent calendar years for purposes of compliance with a regulation promulgated under this Act, by lowering the rate or mass emissions applicable to a person convicted of a criminal violation of section 6003 of this title or any other Federal criminal law based on the theft of specified metal by such person;
(C) IN General.—Any physical change in an existing source, or in the method of operation of an existing source, that increases the efficiency of the existing source or reduces mass emissions of the existing source that are subject to the provisions of this Act (as compared to the average annual emissions of the existing source in any 1 of the 10 most recent calendar years for purposes of compliance with a regulation promulgated under this Act, by lowering the rate or mass emissions applicable to a person convicted of a criminal violation of section 6003 of this title or any other Federal criminal law based on the theft of specified metal by such person;
of carbon dioxide emissions from the existing source shall not require, cause, or otherwise trigger a new source review under this Act.”

SA 3182. Mr. ROUNDS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

SEC. 50. CONSERVATION INCENTIVES LANDOWNER EDUCATION PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall establish a conservation incentives landowner education program (referred to in this section as the “program”).

(b) PURPOSE OF PROGRAM.—The program shall provide information on Federal conservation programs available to landowners interested in undertaking conservation actions on the land of the landowners, including options under each conservation program available to achieve the conservation goals of the program, such as—

(1) fee title land acquisition;
(2) dedication; and
(3) perpetual and term conservation easements or agreements.

(c) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure that the information provided under the program is made available to—

(1) interested landowners; and
(2) the public.

(d) NOTIFICATION.—In any case in which the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture contacts a landowner directly about participation in a Federal conservation program, that Secretary shall, in writing—

(1) notify the landowner of the program; and
(2) make available information on the conservation program options that may be available to the landowner.

SA 3183. Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2953 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the bill S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following:

SEC. 2204. CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY MANUFACTURING AND EXPORT ASSISTANCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY.—The term “clean energy technology” means a technology related to the production, use, transmission, storage, control, or conservation of energy that will contribute to a stabilization of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations through reduction, avoidance, or sequestration of energy-related emissions and—

(A) reduce the need for additional energy supplies by using existing energy supplies with greater efficiency or by transmitting, distributing, or transporting energy with greater effectiveness; or

(B) diversify the sources of energy supply of the United States to strengthen energy security.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(b) STRATEGY.—The Secretary, consistent with the National Export Initiative (established by Executive Order 13324 (75 Fed. Reg. 12,483)), shall develop a strategy that includes—

(1) developing critical analysis of policies to reduce production costs and promote innovation, investment, and productivity in the clean energy technology sector; and

(2) helping companies that—

(A) have lessons about how to tailor their activities to specific markets with respect to their product slate, financing, marketing, assembly, and logistics;

(B) help United States companies learn about the export process and export opportunities in foreign markets;

(C) help United States companies to navigate foreign markets; and

(D) help United States companies to diversify the sources of energy supply.

The strategy shall include—

(1) developing critical analysis of policies to reduce production costs and promote innovation, investment, and productivity in the clean energy technology sector;

(2) helping companies that—

(A) have lessons about how to tailor their activities to specific markets with respect to their product slate, financing, marketing, assembly, and logistics;

(B) help United States companies learn about the export process and export opportunities in foreign markets;

(C) help United States companies to navigate foreign markets; and

(D) help United States companies to diversify the sources of energy supply.

(3) helping United States companies to—

(A) develop critical analysis of policies to reduce production costs and promote innovation, investment, and productivity in the clean energy technology sector;

(B) help companies that—

(i) have lessons about how to tailor their activities to specific markets with respect to their product slate, financing, marketing, assembly, and logistics;

(ii) help United States companies learn about the export process and export opportunities in foreign markets;

(iii) help United States companies to navigate foreign markets; and

(iv) help United States companies to diversify the sources of energy supply.

Such strategy shall include—

(1) developing critical analysis of policies to reduce production costs and promote innovation, investment, and productivity in the clean energy technology sector;

(2) helping companies that—

(A) have lessons about how to tailor their activities to specific markets with respect to their product slate, financing, marketing, assembly, and logistics;

(B) help United States companies learn about the export process and export opportunities in foreign markets;

(C) help United States companies to navigate foreign markets; and

(D) help United States companies to diversify the sources of energy supply.

(3) helping United States companies to—

(A) develop critical analysis of policies to reduce production costs and promote innovation, investment, and productivity in the clean energy technology sector;

(B) help companies that—

(i) have lessons about how to tailor their activities to specific markets with respect to their product slate, financing, marketing, assembly, and logistics;

(ii) help United States companies learn about the export process and export opportunities in foreign markets;

(iii) help United States companies to navigate foreign markets; and

(iv) help United States companies to diversify the sources of energy supply.

The strategy shall include—

(1) developing critical analysis of policies to reduce production costs and promote innovation, investment, and productivity in the clean energy technology sector;

(2) helping companies that—

(A) have lessons about how to tailor their activities to specific markets with respect to their product slate, financing, marketing, assembly, and logistics;

(B) help United States companies learn about the export process and export opportunities in foreign markets;

(C) help United States companies to navigate foreign markets; and

(D) help United States companies to diversify the sources of energy supply.

(3) helping United States companies to—

(A) develop critical analysis of policies to reduce production costs and promote innovation, investment, and productivity in the clean energy technology sector;

(B) help companies that—

(i) have lessons about how to tailor their activities to specific markets with respect to their product slate, financing, marketing, assembly, and logistics;

(ii) help United States companies learn about the export process and export opportunities in foreign markets;

(iii) help United States companies to navigate foreign markets; and

(iv) help United States companies to diversify the sources of energy supply.

The strategy shall include—

(1) developing critical analysis of policies to reduce production costs and promote innovation, investment, and productivity in the clean energy technology sector;

(2) helping companies that—

(A) have lessons about how to tailor their activities to specific markets with respect to their product slate, financing, marketing, assembly, and logistics;

(B) help United States companies learn about the export process and export opportunities in foreign markets;

(C) help United States companies to navigate foreign markets; and

(D) help United States companies to diversify the sources of energy supply.

(3) helping United States companies to—

(A) develop critical analysis of policies to reduce production costs and promote innovation, investment, and productivity in the clean energy technology sector;

(B) help companies that—

(i) have lessons about how to tailor their activities to specific markets with respect to their product slate, financing, marketing, assembly, and logistics;

(ii) help United States companies learn about the export process and export opportunities in foreign markets;

(iii) help United States companies to navigate foreign markets; and

(iv) help United States companies to diversify the sources of energy supply.

The strategy shall include—

(1) developing critical analysis of policies to reduce production costs and promote innovation, investment, and productivity in the clean energy technology sector;

(2) helping companies that—

(A) have lessons about how to tailor their activities to specific markets with respect to their product slate, financing, marketing, assembly, and logistics;

(B) help United States companies learn about the export process and export opportunities in foreign markets;

(C) help United States companies to navigate foreign markets; and

(D) help United States companies to diversify the sources of energy supply.

(3) helping United States companies to—

(A) develop critical analysis of policies to reduce production costs and promote innovation, investment, and productivity in the clean energy technology sector;

(B) help companies that—

(i) have lessons about how to tailor their activities to specific markets with respect to their product slate, financing, marketing, assembly, and logistics;

(ii) help United States companies learn about the export process and export opportunities in foreign markets;

(iii) help United States companies to navigate foreign markets; and

(iv) help United States companies to diversify the sources of energy supply.

The strategy shall include—

(1) developing critical analysis of policies to reduce production costs and promote innovation, investment, and productivity in the clean energy technology sector;

(2) helping companies that—

(A) have lessons about how to tailor their activities to specific markets with respect to their product slate, financing, marketing, assembly, and logistics;

(B) help United States companies learn about the export process and export opportunities in foreign markets;

(C) help United States companies to navigate foreign markets; and

(D) help United States companies to diversify the sources of energy supply.
To be major general

Evan P. Brennan

To be colonel

Daniel C. Hart

To be general

Timothy A. Hunter

To be lieutenant colonel

Todd L. Looney

Paul E. Patterson

The following named Marine national guardsman of the United States states officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the reserve of the Marine national guardsman under title 10, U. S. C., section 624.

Benjamin M. Davioment

To be lieutenant colonel

Terrence J. Luckett

To be colonel

Robert G. Cartwright

To be major

Charles J. Carter

To be colonel

Bryan J. Colgan

To be major

William G. Chocke

To be lieutenant colonel

Nick Duchi

To be major

Bryan W. Ellis

To be colonel

Rosny T. Freeman

To be colonel

Kevin T. Hallagle

To be colonel

Sean K. Gavan

To be major

Wallace R. Gibbons

To be lieutenant colonel

Eric T. Gordon

To be lieutenant colonel

Scott M. Hoyts

To be major

Aaron C. Jordan

To be major

John A. Lieblanc

To be colonel

James R. Mofetfride

To be major

Joseph L. Milindze

To be colonel

Julie E. Mind

To be colonel

Friederick A. Netilles

To be major

Richard P. Oshman

To be colonel

Timothy O. Fettit

To be major

Johnny C. Ramsey, Jr.

To be major

Alexander C. Stewart II

To be colonel

Matthew D. StURBs

To be colonel

Blair R. Pinchak

To be major

Kenneth G. Viebrogcuor

IN THE MARINE CORPS

To be lieutenant colonel

Victor M. Aebles

To be major

Benjamin T. Jackson

To be major

Oscar Alanis, Jr.

To be colonel

Ryan D. Allen

To be colonel

Richard Alvarrez

To be colonel

Claire M. Amdahl

To be colonel

Edward P. Amscala

To be major

Mark R. Asphahuer

To be colonel

Richard A. upholstery

To be colonel

Alexandre A. Arcinas

To be colonel

David A. Arenas

To be major

Darryl G. Ayers

To be major

Tami E. Bailey

To be major

Matthew D. Rain

To be major

Jonathan T. Baker

To be major

Bryan W. Rain

To be major

Adam R. Barbosa

To be major

Sean J. Barnes

To be colonel

Robert M. Barnhart, Jr.

To be major

Carlisle B. Batsion

To be colonel

James F. Beal

To be major

Marc D. Beaudreau

To be colonel

Dal R. Berm

To be major

Runshill A. Bells II

To be major

Eugene B. BENAVIDES

To be general

Christopher S. Bentfield

To be general

Jonathan E. Bidstrup

To be general

Chad T. Bignell

To be major

James M. Shirreffsfield III

To be major

Edward J. Blackshaw

To be major

Cindersham Blair

To be general

Horsac J. Bills

To be colonel

James B. Booth

To be major

Steven B. Bowfin

To be general

Kurt A. Boyd

To be major

Jehuay W. Bruy

To be colonel

John N. Brodgon

To be major

Warren J. Bruce

To be major

Garth W. Burnett

To be general

Bradly J. Butler

To be general

William G. Butters

To be major

Nathan B. Cahoon

To be general

Troy D. Callahan

To be major

Beth S. Canepa

To be general

Christopher J. Cannon

To be general

Michael G. Carle

To be major

Charles E. Carter

To be major

Evan A. Chessy

To be general

John M. Chiu

To be major

Christopher F. Clarfield

To be general

Marshallers R. Clarfield

To be general

Edmund D. Clayton

To be major

Brian N. Clifton

To be major

Gary L. Cohn

To be colonel

Jenny A. Colglate

To be major

Patrick B. Collins

To be major

James R. Compton

To be colonel

Jon P. Connolly

To be major

Paul J. Connolly

To be general

William C. Cox

To be major

Keith J. Crawford

To be major

Kevin A. Crespo

To be major

Michael J. Croxillo

To be major

Matthew R. Couch

To be major

Romero P. Cubas

To be major

Douglas K. Collins

To be general

Thomas J. Cunningham III

To be major

Dennis R. Dalton

To be major

Matthew C. Danner

To be major

Christopher P. McGuire

To be major

Michael W. McNernery

To be colonel

Matthew J. McKinney

To be major

Robert M. McMillan

To be colonel

Charles C. McLeod, Jr.

To be major

Jason M. Mcmangle

To be general

Boyd R. Mcmurray

To be major

Eric A. Meador

To be major

Richard A. Medall

To be general

Marcos A. Melendez III

To be major

Tanya M. Meinke

To be major

Sean M. Merlin

To be major

Ronnie D. Michael

To be major

Daniel W. Miska

To be general

Andrew R. Mills

To be major

Bernard E. Mills

To be major

Eugene F. Nagy

To be major

John M. Nash VII

To be major

Dominique R. Neal

To be major

Chris J. Nelson

To be major

Joseph R. Nelson

To be major

Matthew S. Nichols

To be general

Roy J. Nicka

To be major

John P. Norman

To be major

Kenneth J. O'Connor, Jr.

To be major

Dinisson Ondonnell

To be major

Jeremy F. Osborne

To be major

William V. Osborn III

To be major

Neil R. Oswald

To be major

Tobias E. Owen

To be colonel

Katherine H. Paik

To be major

Jennifer S. Parker

To be major

Joseph G. Parker

To be general

Kristopher M. Patillo

To be colonel

Kevin D. Patillo

To be major

Sean F. Patton

To be colonel

James T. Patikson III

To be major

Andrew T. PAYferr

To be major

Stephen R. Peacel

To be major

Jeffrey S. Peitz

To be major

Amos J. Perdikinis III

To be major

Christopher M. Perels

To be major

Peter E. Pimmler

To be major

Andrew A. Bunde

To be major

Michael J. Mather

To be major

Mark F. Scharf

To be major

Richard S. Schaal

To be major

Ryan A. Scilberr

To be major

Steven M. Schimper

To be major

James F. Scipioni II

To be major

Conn C. See

To be major

Marcos D. Sabino

To be major

Jason A. Sharp

To be major

Dallask E. Shrew, Jr.

To be major

Kevin A. Shea

To be major

Gary A. Skill

To be major

Jason R. Shockey

To be major

Kyle B. Shook

To be major

William G. Black

To be major

Dravin A. Smilely

To be major

Mark A. Smith

To be major

William R. Smith

To be major

Geroeverey Stuck

To be major

Giuseppe A. Stevylar

To be major

Richard B. Stokem

To be major

Dawn M. Stendregen

To be major

Scott E. Steinberg

To be major

John J. Stephens

To be major

Latresa A. Steward

To be major

Henry W. Stokker

To be major

James I. Strickland

To be major

Mark W. Stork

To be major

Juan P. Svenningson

To be major

Geroeverey T. Swartwout

To be major

Jeffrey M. Sykes

To be major

Spencer A. Shewczyk

To be major

Philip J. Taubel

To be major

Casey L. Taylor

To be major

Brandon K. Thomas

To be major

Daniel J. Thomas

To be major

Gregory B. Thomas

To be major

Sea A. Thomas

To be major

David F. Tolar

To be major

Damon M. Tubbert

To be major

Andrew M. Turner

To be major

Philip A. Tweedy

To be general

Boodifol S. Urdostigui

To be major

Dillion B. Vaden

To be major

Bradley J. Vanlyshke

February 1, 2016

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

S451
CONFIRMATION
Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate February 1, 2016:
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
RICARDO A. AGUILERA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE.

WITHDRAWAL
Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on February 1, 2016 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:
JOHN MORTON, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION, VICE MIMI E. ALEMAYEHOU, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JUNE 16, 2015.
Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966, signed into law by Kentucky Governor Edward T. Breathitt on January 27, 1966. This pioneering legislation prohibited discrimination in employment and public accommodations based on race, color, national origin or religion, and I commend the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights for its steadfast work in enforcing it.

Prior to passage of this measure, discrimination and segregation in employment and public accommodations was not only accepted as the norm in Kentucky, it was often required by state law. Countless Kentucky citizens from all walks of life bravely fought and patiently worked to achieve passage of the law, overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles and countless setbacks.

Through their hard work, Kentucky became the first state south of the Mason-Dixon Line to enact civil rights legislation that not only prohibited discrimination in employment and public accommodations, but also included administrative and judicial enforcement powers. At the time of its passage, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. proclaimed the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966 to be “...the strongest and most comprehensive civil rights bill passed by a southern state,” and it rightly became a model for other states to enact legislation of their own.

Since then, the Commission successfully expanded the law to prohibit discrimination in employment, public accommodations, housing, and credit transactions based on race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, familial status, disability and smoking status. And in the 50 years since the passage of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights has filed, investigated, and adjudicated more than eleven thousand complaints on discrimination on behalf of the citizens of Kentucky.

Today, I want to commend the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights for their dedication to upholding this landmark legislation for the last 50 years, and thank them for their tireless efforts to defeat discrimination throughout the Commonwealth.

HONORING JEROME BLUM AND THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE USA

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA and their National Commander, Jerome “Jerry” Blum. Mr. Blum paid his official visit to the JWV Florida Department on Sunday, January 24th in Deerfield Beach.

For 85 years, the Jewish War Veterans has ensured that the rich history of Jewish Americans’ service in our Armed Forces is not overlooked. In fact, over half a million Jewish Americans have served in major conflicts since World War II. This organization is unique in its efforts to combat bigotry and anti-Semitism while remaining inclusive of all veterans, regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity.

Jerry Blum’s tenure as National Commander follows his honorable 33-year service and long-standing involvement with the Jewish War Veterans. His past positions with the organization include Post Commander, Department Commander, and Department Quartermaster. He also publishes the Department of Connecticut’s newsletter, The Shout Out. He is a member of many other veteran service organizations and has served as President of his synagogue. Outside the JWV, he and his wife are involved with Relay for Life and its efforts to raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

I am proud to honor Jerry Blum, the Jewish War Veterans of America, and all the men and women who have defended our Nation through service in our armed forces. The debt we owe our veterans and those who selflessly serve them is immeasurable, and we must always strive to be a nation worthy of their heroic sacrifice.

HONORING MATTHEW MCCINTOCK

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Ms. LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant First Class Matthew McClintock—a dedicated husband, father, soldier, patriot and hero—who was killed last month while serving his country in Afghanistan.

Matthew was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He graduated from El Dorado High School in 2004 and spent two years at the University of New Mexico before joining the Army in 2006. After completing his training, he was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division and deployed to Iraq in 2007. Matthew demonstrated that he was an exceptional soldier, and in May, 2009 he was selected for training in the U.S. Army Special Forces School. In November 2010, he was assigned to 1st Special Forces Group, at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington and deployed to Afghanistan from August 2012 to May 2013.

Following his second tour, Matthew left active duty and joined the Washington Army National Guard in December 2014 where he served as a Special Forces engineer sergeant. This past July, Matthew deployed to Afghanistan as a member of the Washington Army National Guard’s Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 19th Group. Despite having already served his country twice overseas, Matthew was eager to put on his uniform again and serve a third tour.

On January 5, 2016, Matthew was killed during an hours-long battle near the city of Marjah, in the southern Helmand province. Matthew and his fellow Green Berets were on a mission advising their Afghan counterparts during the battle, where two of Matthew’s comrades were also injured. In total, since joining the Army, Matthew has been awarded four Army commendation medals, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and now the Purple Heart.

In addition to his bravery on the field of battle, Matthew was also a loving, devoted and adoring husband and father. Matthew and his wife Alexandra married on Christmas Eve 2012 and this past October, Matthew returned home to Tacoma, Washington in time for the birth of his first child, a beautiful boy named Declan. After only a few weeks home, Matthew returned to his unit in Afghanistan.

Following Matthew’s death, Major General Bret Daugherty, commander of the Washington Guard, said, “Staff Sergeant McClintock was one of the best of the best. He was a Green Beret who sacrificed time away from his loved ones to train for and carry out these dangerous missions. This is a tough loss for our organization.” Matthew’s wife Alexandra added, “Matthew’s greatest wish was to be a father, a husband and a Green Beret. He got to do all of those things in his too short life. Declan will grow up knowing his father was the greatest man I’ve ever dreamed to know and a hero.”

Matthew sacrificed his life overseas to preserve the freedom and liberty of millions of Americans. He fought to create a richer and safer life for his wife, his son and his fellow Americans. Matthew represents the very best of our country and his enduring legacy of service and sacrifice will remain a lasting inspiration for future generations.

RECOGNIZING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF JUDGE GEORGE CARROLL

HON. MARK DeSALVNIER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. DeSALVNIER of California, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary life of Judge George Carroll, a prominent civic leader in...
California’s 11th Congressional District and Richmond’s first African American lawyer, city councilmember and mayor. Judge Carroll died January 14, 2016 at age 94.

Mr. Carroll was born into humble beginnings in Brooklyn, New York. His mother died when he was five, and he was raised by his sister Ruth who worked as a domestic worker to provide for him to pursue education. After serving in the Army, he successfully graduated from college and earned his degree in New York on the G.I. Bill. After his graduation, he worked at the District Attorney’s Office in Kings County, New York, for five years before moving to private practice. In 1952 he moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, finally settling in Richmond in 1954, where he opened his private practice and became an active community member.

Mr. Carroll is widely acknowledged as the first African American lawyer in Richmond, California and was the first African American elected to its city council in 1961. In 1964, Mr. Carroll made history as the first African American elected Mayor of Richmond, and is thought to be the first African American mayor of any large American city since Reconstruction. He fought against discrimination and broke down barriers for African Americans to go to law school and to practice law in the Bay Area. George Carroll became the first black judge in Contra Costa when he was appointed to the Bay Municipal Court by Governor Pat Brown in 1965. He served as a judge in West County until his retirement from the bench in 1982. During his service, Judge Carroll declined a promotion to the Superior Court in order to continue to work in Richmond. He was admired in the community as a leader, role model, and mentor to many. The Richmond Courthouse and a park in the Point Richmond District are fitting tributes to Judge Carroll. We are grateful for his myriad accomplishments and for the countless contributions he made to our local community.

I send my deepest condolences to his family, friends, and loved ones. Judge Carroll made an indelible impression on all of us. He will be missed.

HONORING JEFFREY A. BEEN OF THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Louisville resident Jeffrey A. Been as he retires after 24 years of service at the Legal Aid Society in Louisville, Kentucky.

Named Executive Director at the Legal Aid Society in 2005, Jeff’s legacy at the helm of this important organization includes leading the fight for maintaining legal services for the poor during the Great Recession, building relationships with community partners to ensure that our city’s most disadvantaged neighbors have access to the courts and other supportive services, and expanding programming for homeless and domestic violence victims, survivors.

In his time at the organization, he also created innovative technology tools to help facilitate greater access to our justice system for all.

Jeff served as Associate Director of the Legal Aid Society from 2000-2005 and as Project Director of the organization’s HIV/AIDS Legal Project from 1992-2000. Prior to his work at Legal Aid in Louisville, Jeff served as a prosecutor, judicial law clerk, staff attorney for the U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, and on the faculty at the Indiana School of Law. Jeff also founded the HIV/AIDS Legal Project of Indiana, one of the first programs in the nation to provide free legal services to people living with HIV disease.

He is also the recipient of several awards for his professional service, including the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law Dean’s Service Award, the Louisville Bar Association’s Justice Martin E. Johnstone Special Recognition Award, and the Kentucky Bar Association’s Donated Legal Service Award.

On behalf of the people of Kentucky’s Third Congressional District and the City of Louisville, I extend my best wishes to Jeff as he begins a much deserved retirement.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

HON. ROD BLUM
OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National School Choice Week, celebrating choice in education across all fifty states.

Every January, National School Choice Week shines a positive light on effective, personalized education options for every child and consists of 147 scheduled events occurring in communities across Iowa. National School Choice Week celebrates the different K-12 options and learning styles available to parents and students, and the importance of finding the right individual fit for each child. Every student’s needs are unique—and a one-size-fits-all education model is not beneficial to our children.

A quality education is imperative for the success of future generations and our country, and National School Choice Week highlights the multitude of options available today; charter, magnet, public, and private schools, as well as homeschooling. I commend the charter and private schools operating in the First District and believe school choice is an important policy which can lead to better student outcomes.

Today’s students cannot become tomorrow’s leaders without a vibrant education. I will continue to advocate for the best options for parents, students, teachers, and administrators to ensure the success of our children.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD J. ‘STRETCH’ McGrath, JR.

HON. TIM RYAN
OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Richard J. McGrath, Jr., who passed away on Saturday January 23, 2016. Richard was born September 26, 1958, in Warren, Ohio. The son of Richard and Anna Krysko McGrath, Sr., Richard was employed with the Trumbull County Sheriff’s Office for 25 years, where he was a Deputy Sheriff. He was also a School Resource Officer at Trumbull Career and Technical Center. Always proud to serve his community Richard was an active member of the Professional Trumbull County Deputies Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #137, a member of the Crime Clinic of Greater Youngstown and a former member of the Youngstown Model Railroad Association. His passions included woodworking and playing music on the keyboard. He loved his family, and all of his pets.

Richard will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and community. He leaves behind his parents, of Warren; his wife, Leslie Faustino McGrath of Liberty; his children, Ryan (Chris) McGrath, Amy (Dave) McGrath, Megan (Tori) McGrath, all of Warren; Jared Faustino of Girard and Casey Faustino-Carpenter, (Zac), of Norfolk, VA; his granddaughter Avalenna Faustino and his sister Pat (Dave) Batzdorf, of Candia, NH, as well as numerous family and friends.

Losses like this are never easy, but we can take solace in the fact that Richard left behind a legacy of love and community service that we can hope to carry on. Our community is indebted to his years of selfless service.

CELEBRATING B.I. MOODY’S 90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.
OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of Braxton Isham Moody, or B.I. as we call him in Cajun Country. B.I. was born in the small town of Eunice in Southwest Louisiana on February 4, 1926. He graduated from Rayne High School in 1942 and enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served aboard the USS Randolph in the Pacific theater. After the war, B.I. graduated from Southwestern Louisiana Institute, now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, in 1949.

B.I.’s keen business sense led him on many successful ventures, founding the public accounting firm Moody, Broussard, Poche, and Guidry in Crowley, and serving as President and CEO of national restaurant group Chart House Inc., and as Chairman of the Board of First National Bank of Lafayette. Today, the University of Lafayette has named the College of Business Administration in B.I.’s honor thanks to his business success and his heart for the future of South Louisiana.

I know B.I. as a pillar of our community, someone who worked hard to build successful businesses but never forgot where he came from. B.I. has always been generous with his time and resources to help others succeed, and to help build a better state of Louisiana. As we celebrate 90 years, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing him for his many contributions to our country and wishing him many years of health and happiness to come.
Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA). NASDA is a non-profit, non-partisan organization which represents the commissioners, secretaries, and directors of agriculture from all fifty states and four U.S. territories. The state departments of agriculture have served not only the farmers and ranchers of America, but also American consumers for a significant portion of our nation’s history.

NASDA is a highly effective association which serves to grow and enhance agriculture by forging partnerships and creating consensus to achieve sound policy outcomes between state departments of agriculture, the federal government, and stakeholders. These partnerships are apparent in the halls of almost every office building in the District of Columbia. I rely on the hard-working men and women in the Texas Department of Agriculture to provide me with perspectives on how federal policy is impacting boots on the ground agriculture. I’m sure my colleagues rely on their state department of agriculture in similar ways.

NASDA is an active partner with the United States Department of Agriculture through a longstanding cooperative agreement to employ a nationwide network of enumerators in support of the mission of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The data collected through this partnership informs a broad spectrum of legislative and regulatory initiatives, including farm programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture which I have the honor to chair.

NASDA and its members likewise play a critical role informing Congress and the executive branch regarding the operation of federal and state programs covering everything from animal and plant health, food safety and marketing, nutrition, and literally hundreds of other consumer services.

NASDA exists to amplify the unique voice of all state departments of agriculture. NASDA members are able to amplify their national voice by achieving consensus on otherwise contentious issues such as threatened and endangered species, agriculture labor, and water-related issues.

Mr. Speaker, I join the members and stakeholders of NASDA in celebrating their 100th anniversary of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture on their 100th anniversary.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF NORTHWEST FLORIDA’S BELOVED CHIEF JIMMY CAGLE OF BERRYDALE

HON. JEFF MILLER
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and dedicated service of Chief Jimmy Cagle of Berrydale, Florida who died on January 24, 2016. Chief Cagle was a patriot, committed community leader, and devoted family man, and Northwest Florida mourns his passing.

For more than two decades, Chief Cagle served our Nation honorably in the United States Navy as a boiler tender and firefighter. Following his military service, Chief Cagle continued his service to his local community and joined the Berrydale Volunteer Fire Department, where he served as Chief for 25 years. Under his steadfast leadership, the residents of the Berrydale community slept soundly, knowing that they are under the watchful eye of the Berrydale Volunteer Fire Department.

Through his service, Chief Cagle became a staple in Northwest Florida. Those who knew him best can truly attest to his selflessness and compassion. He will be remembered for devotion to the Berrydale community and fire department, which was rivaled only by his love for his family.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am honored to recognize the life of Chief Jimmy Cagle. My wife Vicki and I extend our heartfelt prayers and deepest condolences to his wife of 25 years, Debbie; daughter, Conda and her husband, Randy Sassier; son, Jim; grandchildren, Kassie and her husband, Matt Dusseau, Lt. Josh Sassier and his wife, Katie, Chelsea and her husband, Staff Sgt. Cody Belcher, and Kaitlyn, Brianna, and Cody Pugh; great-grandchildren: Reece, Kolby, Kennedy, Landon, Mattingly, and Macelynn; and the entire Cagle and fire department families.

HONORING MR. RONALD V. DELLUMS
HON. BARBARA LEE
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ronald V. Dellums on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Mr. Dellums has had an incredible career in public service, advocating for change and reform in many areas of government affairs.

A proud Oakland native, Ron attended both McClymonds and Oakland Technical High School, and went on to graduate from San Francisco State University after serving for two years in the United States Marine Corps. He later obtained his Masters of Social Work from the University of California, Berkeley.

Mr. Dellums began his career as a psychiatric social worker and political activist for the African-American community. In 1967, he was elected to the Berkeley City Council, where he provided three years of extraordinary service. In 1970, he was elected to serve the 9th Congressional District of California in the United States House of Representatives. During his 27-year tenure in Congress, Mr. Dellums fought strongly for peace, justice and equality. As a freshman member, he adamantly spoke in opposition to the Vietnam War, going as far as setting up an exhibit of war crimes next to his office.

For fourteen years, he campaigned to end the apartheid policies in South Africa. In 1986, the U.S. House of Representatives passed his sponsored legislation, the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act, which placed trade restrictions against South Africa and led to international support for the African National Congress.

Although the bill had broad bipartisan support, it was vetoed by President Ronald Reagan. However, the Senate and the House overrode...
Reagan's veto, making it the first ever override of a presidential foreign policy veto. Mr. Dellums served as Chairman of the House Committee on Armed Services where he advocated for the inclusion of gays and lesbians in the military. Furthermore, Ron co-founded the Congressional Black Caucus in 1971, an organization representing African-American members of the United States Congress.

Mr. Dellums retired from Congress in 1998 but continued his public service as a legislative lobbyist in Washington, D.C. He served many clients including the Peralta Community College District, AC Transit and the San Francisco International Airport. In 2006, he was elected Mayor of Oakland and he immediately worked to address the city's public safety issues by implementing a community policing program and was able to bring the city's police force to B37 officers, the highest in the Department's history.

On a personal note, I am honored to have served as an intern and member of Ron's staff for eleven years. He taught his staff to stand on principle and for what was right, even if it was politically unpopular. He reminded me and his entire staff to provide quality constituent services and casework, for we were hired to "serve the people." Ron also taught us the art and skill of negotiation, even with those we disagree with, and to achieve results without compromising our principles. He exemplified the finest in public service and set a new standard for elected officials. For that, we are deeply grateful.

Today, California's 13th Congressional District, celebrate the extraordinary life and service of Mr. Ronald V. Dellums and wish him heartfelt prayers and deepest condolences to his loving wife, Leola; grandchildren, Cassidy Paige, Emma Holzapfel and his wife, Roxana, of Tempe, Arizona; great-grandson,Disappear; great-granddaughter, Cassidy Paige; sister, Bonnie; and family, he will be most fondly remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate the National CARES Mentoring Movement on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary Gala, "For the Love of Our Children: A National Call to Commitment." On January 25, 2016, National CARES celebrated the work it has done to break the cycle of intergenerational Black poverty, and its deepening commitment to the critical work that remains.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the National CARES Mentoring Movement on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary Gala, "For the Love of Our Children: A National Call to Commitment." On January 25, 2016, National CARES celebrated the work it has done to break the cycle of intergenerational Black poverty, and its deepening commitment to the critical work that remains.

Founded by Susan L. Taylor in 2006 under the moniker "ESSENCE CARES," the National CARES Mentoring Movement was established to protect and elevate our nation's most vulnerable children. Ms. Taylor's vision for ESSENCE CARES first arose in 2005, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Today, the National CARES Mentoring Movement has grown into an organization focused on community mobilization comprised of local affiliates in 58 cities across the nation. These affiliates recruit, train, and place mentors in schools and youth-serving programs. To date, more than 15,000 men and women have served as CARES mentors with organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and many more.

The National CARES Mentoring Movement is the only national organization that partners with youth groups and schools to build culturally competent STEM-literacy training and workforce-readiness programs. Its initiatives, known as "The Rising," are working to build capacity in some of our nation's most blighted black communities. Designed to heal trauma and transform lives, The Rising initiatives focus on the academic, social, and emotional development of children who are living in deep poverty.

One of the initiatives, known as HBCU Rising, is based in Atlanta and is designed to be replicated through the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) system. It interweaves strong workforce-development and career-readiness skills for college-student mentors and the middle school children they serve. The Rising also operates in challenged high schools across the nation, guiding students through interactive lessons designed to encourage critical thinking skills, excellence in academics, and preparation for success in college and careers.

On a personal note, I want to thank Susan for her wise counsel, her tremendous leadership, her inspiration and her friendship. It is her loving spirit that keeps us hopeful for a better world for our children. This milestone in her life reminds us that we too must and can achieve the critical work that we are called to do. Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the National CARES Mentoring Movement on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary Gala, "For the Love of Our Children: A National Call to Commitment." On January 25, 2016, National CARES celebrated the work it has done to break the cycle of intergenerational Black poverty, and its deepening commitment to the critical work that remains.
HONORING CORBEN CRITES

HON. JASON SMITH
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Corben Crites of Farmington, Missouri for his outstanding achievement of receiving his Eagle Scout Award. This award is not easily attained and cannot be achieved without a steadfast determination to succeed.

In order to receive this award, Corben completed an Eagle project that exemplifies patriotism and his commitment to serve others. To help better meet the needs of Farmington area students, Corben constructed a 166-foot walkway and two benches in a designated student pickup area at the Farmington Senior High School.

At a young age Corben has shown values such as honesty, loyalty, and civility that inspire others. He has shown commitment to good citizenship, physical fitness, and education. By learning important survival skills and first aid, he has made himself an asset to our community, as well as the nation. Corben is a role model for young and old alike and it is my pleasure to recognize his achievements before the House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING ROBERT T. E. KAO FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY OF GUAM

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
OF GUAM
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mr. Robert T. E. Kao for his service and selfless contributions to the community of Guam. Robert has dedicated his life to helping others as a true humanitarian and philanthropist.

Robert was born in China in 1939. He grew up in the eastern province of Shandong where he developed his knowledge of Confucius teachings. Robert and his siblings were raised by an older brother in Taiwan after their parents passed away when Robert was just a toddler.

Robert was a teacher in Taiwan and he married his wife, Anna in 1967. The Kao's moved to Guam in 1971 when Anna accepted a military contract position for furniture contracting. Within a year Anna opened Genghis Khan Furniture and by 1995 her business became the premier Asian and contemporary furniture store in Guam. She opened ten stores between 1972 and 1995 in Guam, California and China. Anna contributes the success of the family to the support of her husband who served as the vice president of Genghis Khan Furniture, while guiding their children and doing charitable work. Together they have two children and now three grandchildren. Both of their children have found success in their professions in the United States mainland.

During a very difficult time for many people of Taiwan, Robert served as Overseas China's Affairs Commissioner. He used his personal resources to locate and reunite hundreds of families who were separated from their families in China. Many families were separated for more than 30 years and forbidden to communicate with their families in Taiwan laws.

Additionally, Robert has been a member of the fraternal organization the Freemasons for over 40 years, and has supported the Shriners Hospital through a Noble of the Mystic Shrine of North America. He has served twice as the president of the Chinese Association of Guam and the president of the Confucian Society of Guam. During his term as president of the Confucian Society of Guam, he lobbied the Guam Legislature to declare September 28, Confucius' birthday, as Teachers' Appreciation Day to remind all students of the value of honoring educators. Robert was also a founding member and first president of the Federation of Asian People.

He has also assisted with building the Chinese School of Guam and the Tamuning Chinese Park in Guam. Robert has helped students acquire scholarships to attend the University of Taiwan and has supported numerous local and national charities.

Robert worked diligently throughout his time on Guam and demonstrated true and genuine care for the people he gave his time to serve. I congratulate Mr. Robert T. E. Kao for his life and I join the people of Guam in commending him, his wife Anna and their family for their many contributions.

COMMENORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOVERNMENTAL PRAYER BREAKFAST OF PENSACOLA, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Governmental Prayer Breakfast of Pensacola, Florida.

The hand of God has guided this country since its founding in 1776 to see that God has always been a part of the fabric of American life. One hundred fifty-six years before the Declaration of Independence, the first Pilgrims at the Plymouth Rock in 1620 through today. Without God and faith, our Nation simply would not exist. Indeed, our Founders pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor to the Declaration of Independence “with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence,” and we can look back far past 1776 to see that God has always been a part of the fabric of American life. One hundred fifty-six years before the Declaration of Independence, the first Pilgrims at the Plymouth Colony signed the Mayflower Compact used the very reason for setting in what would become the United States was “for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith.”

The Constitution may make no specific mention of God, but it reflects the religious principles that a diverse group of thinkers used to guide this country throughout history. While there are some Americans who think that politics and faith cannot coexist and believe that prayer and public service do not mix, many of us believe that our Nation's leaders need faith as a guide. We need it because man alone is imperfect and flawed. We need God's direction in our lives because our American freedom rests not on the written words of our founding documents, but on the moral strength of the American people. George Washington believed that it is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible. Freedom is only possible if men believe in God and seek to do His will in their lives and for this country.

In order to live our lives as servants of the Lord, our Founders recognized that we must look to prayer. Prayer has been a guiding principle of private citizens and public officials alike, and prayer has long been used to open important public meetings and events. In fact, the tradition dates back to at least September 7, 1774, when Reverend Jacob Duche delivered a prayer to open the First Continental Congress. This tradition continues today, with Congress opening its daily sessions with a prayer offered by the House Chaplain or a new chaplain, and the religious history of our Nation is also reflected in our National Motto— "In God We Trust"—the National Day of Prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance, amongst many others.

Just as our Founders looked to prayer, elected officials and community leaders at all levels of life and government continue the sacred tradition of prayer. This is the very essence behind the founding of the Governmental Prayer Breakfast of Pensacola. Since it was established four decades ago by a group of ministers from the Greater Cantonment-Ensley Ministerial Alliance in Escambia County, Florida, this annual tradition has gathered hundreds of Northwest Floridians, including elected and appointed officials, together to pray for our Nation and all levels of our government.

Our Father gave America its democracy, its prosperity, and its liberty because America has embraced God's will for its future. But we must continue to keep our faith in God in order to keep our faith in government. It was not our Founders' intent to keep God out of government, but to keep the government out of the church. As Thomas Jefferson wrote, "The constitutional freedom of religion is the most inalienable and sacred of all human rights." We establish no religion in this country, nor should we. But we continue to honor the Lord and the blessings of liberty and freedom that he has bestowed upon this Nation, and by bringing together leaders of Faith from all levels, Pensacola's Governmental Prayer Breakfast honors the Lord and the founding principles of this great Nation.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize the Governmental Prayer Breakfast's founding members and those who have followed in their footsteps in helping to preserve its original mission of encouraging moral and spiritual values in government. My wife Vicki joins me in congratulating all of its members and past participants on this important milestone and thanking them for their service to our country. We wish them continued success, and may God continue to bless Northwest Florida, leaders of all levels of government, and all Americans across this great Nation.
REMEmBERING LIEUTENANT COM-MANDER ROBERT DUNLAP HOL-LAND, JR.

HON. MAC THORNBERRY
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to announce the passing of LCDR (Ret.) Robert Dunlap Hol-
land, Jr. of Annandale, Virginia on January 20, 2016, at the age of 89. He is survived by Bar-
bara, his loving wife of 59 years; his daughter
Anne and son-in-law Richard McFarland of
Springfield, Virginia; his son Thomas Chris-
topher; daughter-in-law Lisa; and stepson
Cody Doss of Jupiter, Florida; his sister Phyllis
Eggleston of Norfolk, Virginia; and many
nieces, nephews, cousins, and special friends.

LCDR Holland was born in Norfolk, Virginia
on November 18, 1926, to Gladys Matthews
Holland and Robert Dunlap Holland. He was
raised in Norfolk and graduated from Maury
High School in 1944. Upon graduation, LCDR
Holland went to Emory and Henry College as
part of the Navy’s V-12 program. He subse-
quently attended the University of Virginia,
graduating in 1949, and the Naval ROTC pro-
gram where he earned a degree in commerce
and a reserve commission in the United
States Navy. When the Korean War broke out,
the Navy activated his commission as part of
the contingent invading Inchon. Upon returning
to the United States, LCDR Holland trained as
a gunfire liaison officer at Camp Lejeune,
North Carolina.

After leaving active service, LCDR Holland
relocated to Annapolis, Maryland, to manage a
small loan office. In 1954, he met his future
wife, Barbara Claire Harkins. They married in
1956. In 1960, Robert, Barbara, and their two
children moved to Annandale where he began
a career in banking. He was tremendously
proud of both his service in the United States
Navy Reserve and to be a part of the First Vir-
ginia Bank Family.

Mr. Speaker, LCDR Holland and his family
represent the very best of America’s Greatest
Generation. We rise to honor and thank them
for their service to our Nation and to wish
them Fair Winds and Following Seas.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA NATIONAL
CHAMPION FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. BRADLEY BYRNE
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
congratulate the University of Alabama football
team on winning the College Football Playoff
National Championship. This marks Alabama’s
NCAA-record 16th national championship.

As a diehard Alabama football fan, I loved
watching this team because they played with
such a strong competitive spirit and refused
to be denied. The team was incredibly well-
rounded and balanced in all three phases of
the game. Each week, it seemed like a dif-
ferent player would step up and make a big
play. That is an important trademark of a true
team.

I am especially proud of the players from
Southwest Alabama who contributed to the
team’s success. Quarterback Jake Coker is a
Mobile native who played high school football
at St. Paul’s Episcopal School. In the cham-
pionship game, Coker threw for over 300
yards and two touchdowns. It was a very gritty
and impressive effort, just like Coker’s entire
college career.

Helping to lead the way for Coker and Ala-
amia’s Heisman-winning running back was
former Davidson High School standout Al-
phonse Taylor. As the starting right guard on
the offensive line, Taylor and his teammates
on the offensive line were rewarded for their
outstanding play by winning the inaugural Joe
Moore Award. This award goes to the nation’s
top offensive line each season. It was a well-
deserved honor.

Alabama’s run to the national championship
was marked by outstanding play from the de-
fense. That defense included former Daphne
High School star Ryan Anderson. Anderson
was a dominating force who racked up six
sacks on the year. He played some of his best
down the stretch in the SEC Cham-
pionship Game and again in the College Foot-
ball Playoff games. I know opposing quarter-
backs will be fearing him next season as well.

Mr. Speaker, this Alabama squad played as
a team and in a way that should make every
Alabamian proud. To the players, coaches,
support staff, and the University of Alabama
administration, I want to say congratulations
and Roll Tide.

HONORING THE LIFELONG SER-
VICE OF COLONEL JOSEPH
SPIELBAUER

HON. BILL SHUSTER
OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
salute the service of Colonel Joseph Spielbau-
er, whose dedication to excellence and sacrifi-
ces for public service spanned more
than 25 years of active duty military service
and over 20 additional years of public service
to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Colonel Spielbauer was commissioned a
2nd Lieutenant in Field Artillery from Gonzaga
University, in May 1967. He immediately
shipped out to Fort Sill, Oklahoma for officer
basic training followed by Artillery training
and the grueling Ranger course at Fort Ben-
ning, the home of Infantry at Fort Benning,
Georgia. He earned both his paratrooper
wings and the prestigious Ranger tab prior to
his first assignment to the famed 82nd Air-
borne Division.

After duty with the 82nd Airborne Division,
Colonel Spielbauer was reassigned to combat
duty with the 1st Infantry Division in the Re-
public of Vietnam, where he served as an arti-
illery fire battery commander. Following com-
batt duty, he returned to the United States and
completed the artillery officer advance course,
the advanced maintenance course, and rig-
gorous infantry Pathfinder training.

Colonel Spielbauer’s next assignment was
in Germany, where he first served as an artil-
}
Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a special event that took place in my district to honor public safety personnel. On January 23, 2016, Chapter 63 of the International Footprint Association hosted “Breakfast for Heroes” to show their appreciation for the tireless work done by public safety agencies in the High Desert region of California.

“Breakfast for Heroes” took place at the El Pescador Restaurant in Victorville, California and the public was encouraged to attend to show their appreciation. This is the first time that Chapter 63 held a breakfast event to honor High Desert public safety personnel and they anticipated a large turnout of attendees.

Attendees were able to take tours of an ambulance, fire truck, and police vehicles. All proceeds from the event go towards the Chapter 63 Scholarship Program. The International Footprint Association is a non-profit community benefit organization whose mission is to foster positive relations between law enforcement and the public. During my time as a legislator, I have worked with this organization on numerous occasions and have always been impressed with the work they do in our communities. I strongly encouraged my constituents to attend “Breakfast for Heroes” to show their support for the men and women who put their lives on the line every day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to publicly applaud and praise the exceptional work of one of Dallas’s finest residents, Ms. Molly H. Bogen. For over forty years, Ms. Bogen has been a champion of the elderly in her role as the Director of Operations for Senior Source. The Dallas-based entity has worked tirelessly for the senior citizens of Texas in her role as the Director of Operations for Senior Source. Ms. Bogen has dedicated her entire life to dutifully serving her community. She first received her undergraduate degree from Southern Methodist University, before moving to United of Texas at Arlington to pursue her Master’s of Science in Social Work. This education prepared her to officially license by the Texas State Board to practice social work, and begin her exemplary career. Her work with the elderly is now legendary, and she has since come to be recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus by both of her alma maters.

Ms. Bogen has served as president of Senior Source, and has been a champion for the senior citizens of Texas in her role as the Director of Operations for Senior Source. Her work with the elderly is now legendary, and she has since come to be recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus by both of her alma maters.

Through her work with Senior Source, Ms. Bogen has cemented a legacy that is rooted in the immense imprint she has left on the senior community of Texas and the nation at large. Her appointment as the President and CEO of the organization in 1976 brought about expansion and growth. Recognizing a gap in the community, Ms. Bogen introduced a series of programs devoted to supporting senior citizens with employment, financial management, advocacy and companionship. As such, the organization has become one of the country’s most renowned senior-service providers, and this was in no small part due to the immense love, respect and kindness that Ms. Bogen imparted into her daily work. Her selfless passion will no doubt continue to inspire her dedicated fifty-six-member staff, and continue to cultivate Ms. Bogen’s incredible work.

Mr. Speaker, the extraordinary compassion shown by Ms. Bogen over the course of her four-decade career is a testament to her magnificent character and commitment to her community. The people of North Texas owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude and wish her all of the best in her retirement. It is hard earned, and may it be one of contentment and joy.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to publicly applaud and praise the exceptional work of one of Dallas’s finest residents, Ms. Molly H. Bogen. For over forty years, Ms. Bogen has been a champion of the elderly in her role as the Director of Operations for Senior Source. The Dallas-based entity has worked tirelessly for the senior citizens of Texas in her role as the Director of Operations for Senior Source.

Ms. Bogen has dedicated her entire life to dutifully serving her community. She first received her undergraduate degree from Southern Methodist University, before moving to United of Texas at Arlington to pursue her Master’s of Science in Social Work. This education prepared her to officially license by the Texas State Board to practice social work, and begin her exemplary career. Her work with the elderly is now legendary, and she has since come to be recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus by both of her alma maters.

Through her work with Senior Source, Ms. Bogen has cemented a legacy that is rooted in the immense imprint she has left on the senior community of Texas and the nation at large. Her appointment as the President and CEO of the organization in 1976 brought about expansion and growth. Recognizing a gap in the community, Ms. Bogen introduced a series of programs devoted to supporting senior citizens with employment, financial management, advocacy and companionship. As such, the organization has become one of the country’s most renowned senior-service providers, and this was in no small part due to the immense love, respect and kindness that Ms. Bogen imparted into her daily work. Her selfless passion will no doubt continue to inspire her dedicated fifty-six-member staff, and continue to cultivate Ms. Bogen’s incredible work.

Mr. Speaker, the extraordinary compassion shown by Ms. Bogen over the course of her four-decade career is a testament to her magnificent character and commitment to her community. The people of North Texas owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude and wish her all of the best in her retirement. It is hard earned, and may it be one of contentment and joy.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to publicly applaud and praise the exceptional work of one of Dallas’s finest residents, Ms. Molly H. Bogen. For over forty years, Ms. Bogen has been a champion of the elderly in her role as the Director of Operations for Senior Source. The Dallas-based entity has worked tirelessly for the senior citizens of Texas in her role as the Director of Operations for Senior Source.

Ms. Bogen has dedicated her entire life to dutifully serving her community. She first received her undergraduate degree from Southern Methodist University, before moving to United of Texas at Arlington to pursue her Master’s of Science in Social Work. This education prepared her to officially license by the Texas State Board to practice social work, and begin her exemplary career. Her work with the elderly is now legendary, and she has since come to be recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus by both of her alma maters.

Through her work with Senior Source, Ms. Bogen has cemented a legacy that is rooted in the immense imprint she has left on the senior community of Texas and the nation at large. Her appointment as the President and CEO of the organization in 1976 brought about expansion and growth. Recognizing a gap in the community, Ms. Bogen introduced a series of programs devoted to supporting senior citizens with employment, financial management, advocacy and companionship. As such, the organization has become one of the country’s most renowned senior-service providers, and this was in no small part due to the immense love, respect and kindness that Ms. Bogen imparted into her daily work. Her selfless passion will no doubt continue to inspire her dedicated fifty-six-member staff, and continue to cultivate Ms. Bogen’s incredible work.

Mr. Speaker, the extraordinary compassion shown by Ms. Bogen over the course of her four-decade career is a testament to her magnificent character and commitment to her community. The people of North Texas owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude and wish her all of the best in her retirement. It is hard earned, and may it be one of contentment and joy.
Sister Margaret has held several leadership positions throughout her career. Prior to being inaugurated as president of St. Bonaventure University, she served as dean and director of the Franciscan Institute of St. Bonaventure. In addition, she previously served as chair of the board of directors of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, and member of the Committee on Education of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In recognition of her outstanding achievements and contributions, Sister Margaret has been awarded nine honorary doctorate degrees. She has also been honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from Business First of Buffalo and the Citation Award from the National Federation of Just Communities.

Sister Margaret truly exemplifies the Franciscan values of pursuing knowledge and serving others. She has had a profound and lasting impact on students, faculty, and the entire St. Bonaventure community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sister Margaret Carney on a remarkable career, and wishing her all the best in her upcoming retirement.

RECOGNIZING BOB AND MARIE GALLO

HON. JEFF DENHAM
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bob and Marie Gallo, who will be awarded the Robert J. Cardoza Citizen of the Year—Lifetime Achievement Award from the Modesto Chamber of Commerce, for their unwavering commitment to their community.

Bob Gallo was born in Modesto, California to Julio and Aileen Gallo. He spent his early years on their family ranch and graduated from Modesto High School. He continued his education at Oregon State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business and Technology in 1958. Bob served in the United States Navy for two years aboard the USS Yorktown.

Marie also was born in Modesto, California to former Superior Court Judge Frank C. and Mae Damrell. Graduating a year after Bob at Modesto High School, Marie attended Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree and her elementary teaching credentials. Following her graduation, she came back to California where she started teaching at Alamo Elementary School in 1947, and wrote in the stars, Marie returned to Modesto and married the love of her life, Bob.

Both Bob & Marie have a strong belief in improving the quality of life for the people in their community. Their contributions of time and money are well documented in the numerous organizations they are involved in.

Bob Gallo has been active in the United Way, the Grand Jury, Community Action Commission, King-Kennedy Center, Rotary International, Human Rights Commission, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Natural Conservancy, and on the Board of Trustees of the University of California, Merced. In addition, he has worked to expand the Modesto Union Gospel Mission and received an award from The Salvation Army for his leadership in raising money funds. He has served on the board of American Farmland Trust and was the driving force behind the San Joaquin National Wildlife Refuge. Currently, Bob is Co-Chairman of the Board of E. & J. Gallo Winery. Not to be outdone by her husband, Marie has been a part of the Modesto Symphony Orchestra and Guild, where she established the Picnic at the POPs concert, which has been held annually on the winery grounds since 1995. She is also a founder of the Catholic Honorary Social Service Guild, an honorary member of the Modesto Symphony Club and of the Women’s Auxiliary, and is a founding board member of Central Catholic High School. She held a prominent role in bringing the Sisters of the Cross to Modesto from Mexico and also served as a member of the “Christmas Angels” bell ringing team for the Salvation Army for numerous years. Marie played a vital role in the construction of the Gallo Center for the Arts with the support of her husband and family.

Bob and Marie, who were married in the summer of 1958, will celebrate their 58th anniversary in July. Together, they raise 8 children and were blessed with twenty-two grandchildren; to which they have passed along the importance of family church and commitment to the community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Bob and Marie Gallo for their recognition from the Modesto Chamber of Commerce with the Robert J. Cardoza Citizen of the Year—Lifetime Achievement Award. Their years of dedicated service to the community are to be commended.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING SECOND LIEUTENANT MY-RANDA KELLY QUINATA OF THE GUAM AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
OF GUAM
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions and achievements of Second Lieutenant My-Randa Kelly Quinata of the 254th Force Support Squadron of the Guam Air National Guard, Guam National Guard. Second Lieutenant Quinata was promoted to Second Lieutenant on September 20, 2015. She is the first medical service corps officer and the first female of the Guam Air National Guard to receive a direct commission.

2nd Lt. Quinata currently serves as the Health Services Administrator of the Guam Air Guard’s newly formed five member medical unit. She works in the civilian sector as a Health System Specialist in Aerospace Medicine in Medical Standards and Exams under the Base Operations Medical Cell at the 36th Medical Group, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

She has a long record of service and has dedicated her life and career to serving our country in different capacities. My-Randa joined the active duty Air Force in March 2003 and graduated from the Health Services Management course at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas in 2003. She also served in other health services administration roles as an outpatient records technician, information systems technician, medical office manager, medical control center noncommissioned officer and noncommissioned officer in charge of patient administration.

Before her separation from the active duty Air Force in 2014, My-Randa served at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and at the Andersen Air Force Base in Guam. She was also deployed to Ali Al Salem Air Base in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. My-Randa was also the recipient of the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Meritorious Unit Award, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Air Force Good Conduct Award, the Global Terrorism Service Medal, the Air Force Longevity Service Award, Air Force Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon, the Small Arms Expert Marksman’s Ribbon (Rifle), the Air Force Training Ribbon, the 2008 Pacific Air Forces Health Services Airman of the Year Award, and the 2008 Medical Support Services Airman of the Year Award.

Second Lieutenant My-Randa Kelly Quinata is dedicated to the mission of the Guam Air National Guard and finds strength in the support of her leadership, fellow guardsmen and her family.

This is a very proud moment for the island of Guam and the Guam National Guard. I join the people of Guam in congratulating Second Lieutenant My-Randa Kelly Quinata and the 254th Force Support Squadron and Guam Air National Guard on this achievement. I also extend a special congratulations to her husband Derrick and their children, Taylor, Trevor, and Tana. I thank her for her contributions to the community of Guam and I look forward to her future contributions and success.

HONORING MAE DUKE

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mae Duke, who is being recognized by the Century Village Democratic Club for her distinguished service as President.

As part of the "greatest generation," Mae's life embodied the American dream. Mae is a first generation Jewish immigrant raised on Coney Island, New York and overcame numerous obstacles to complete her education and work as a laboratory technician. Mae married Sam Duke, a New York City Police officer, in 1947, and together they raised four children in Brooklyn.

Since her youth, Mae has believed in the importance of public service, civic duty, and participation in democracy. After her four children enrolled in public school, Mae ran for the local school board. Later, she and her husband started a youth league at their local synagogue. Today at age 89, Mae resides in West Palm Beach where she remains active with local community groups and as the President of the Century Village Club. She is adored and admired by her 4 children, 9 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren.

Wherever her life has taken her, Mae Duke has selflessly volunteered her time and efforts to better her community. I am pleased to join
TRIBUTE TO LANETTE WRIGHT

HON. HAROLD ROGERS
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of my long-time executive assistant and friend, LaNette Wright, who is retiring after more than three decades of distinguished service. LaNette started her career in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1984 when she was hired as a Staff Aide in Somerset, Kentucky. She later became a trusted Caseworker, guiding local constituents through complications with federal agencies. In 1999, LaNette took on the role as my Executive Assistant, faithfully and dutifully organizing every meeting, speaking engagement, and flight itinerary in coordination with my personal schedule. In 2012, she also earned the title of Casework Director, ensuring constituent needs are effectively and efficiently met at the Somerset, Hazard and Prestonsburg District Offices. Time and again, she has gone above the call of duty to help me, and by extension, the people of Kentucky’s Fifth Congressional District in delivering a better, more responsive and open constituent experience.

Like most of us, I have been fortunate in my tenure in Congress to have extraordinary professional and personal staff accompany me on this journey. However, LaNette has always given me and my family an extra measure of loyalty, advice and friendship that I will always treasure. Without a doubt, her organization and foresight made many of my days much simpler, despite a schedule that often becomes complicated and demanding. Her sheer presence in the Somerset office will be greatly missed, from her ability to extend compassion to distraught Veterans, to calming discouraged citizens frustrated by federal bureaucracy, to celebrating victories in the lives of folks we have been able to assist through casework. Her thoughtful execution in every situation has made LaNette a truly irreplaceable part of the Rogers team.

As we all know, Congressional staff work long hours, and often sacrifice weekends and holidays in order to keep this esteemed institution running—invariably taking a toll on personal commitments. She has earned more than her share of quality time with her family and friends—especially her energetic grandchildren.

The people of Southern and Eastern Kentucky, our staff and I owe LaNette a great debt of gratitude for her steadfast service and dedication to our region. We wish LaNette and her husband Louie many wonderful years of retirement in Kentucky and on the sunny beaches and golf courses of Florida.

HON. PAUL COOK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Liam Gavigan for his tireless efforts to construct a veterans monument in Lake Arrowhead, California. Liam is a member of Boy Scouts of America Troop 89 and has undertaken this task as his Eagle Scout Project. From the time he became involved with the Cub Scouts, Liam had a vision for creating a monument to honor the sacrifices of veterans who live in the San Bernardino County mountain communities. It took several years, but Liam’s determination resulted in him fundraising over $20,000 needed to construct the memorial. With assistance provided by the San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust, Liam was also able to secure the necessary land upon which the monument will stand.

As a Vietnam veteran and retired Marine Corps infantry officer, I applaud Liam and the members of Troop 89 for their diligence in bringing this project to fruition. I look forward to visiting the monument during my next trip to Lake Arrowhead.

CONGRATULATING DR. TSAI INGWEN ON HER ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF TAIWAN

HON. KENNY MARCHANT
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Tsai Ing-wen on her victory in the Taiwanese presidential election held on January 16, 2016. President-elect Tsai is scheduled to take office on May 20 of this year, and will be the first woman president of Taiwan. I further congratulate the vice president-elect, Dr. Chen Chien-jen, as well as the people of Taiwan for this historic vote that signifies so much for the continuing strength of democracy in Taiwan.

On this occasion, I would encourage my colleagues to join me in assuring President-elect Tsai and the people of Taiwan of our commitment to the friendship between our two countries. We are bound by the values and principles we share; and the peaceful and free election on January 16 once again demonstrates that Taiwan’s robust democracy is an example of commitment to the free and democratic system that has been established over the decades is a testament to the commendable dedication and determination of a free Taiwanese people. Their support for human rights is a beacon, and their leaders should be encouraged as they work to keep it shining.

Dr. Tsai’s election is additionally an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of the Taiwan Relations Act as the cornerstone of the relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan. I urge my colleagues to remain committed to the security of Taiwan, as well as our economic and social relationship, and look forward to our two countries’ continuing to work together on issues of common interest.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating President-elect Tsai and the people of Taiwan, and in wishing them the best in the new administration.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO COLLEGE OF NURSING

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the University of New Mexico College of Nursing which celebrated its 60th Anniversary this past year. The College of Nursing is a world class institution of learning whose graduates have been a blessing to the individuals they have cared for and helped save countless lives.

The University of New Mexico College of Nursing was founded in 1956 after Dr. Marion Fleck and Mary Jane Carter acquired a $60,000 grant from the New Mexico State Legislature. Since its founding, the school has aimed to educate and train future leaders in nursing, research innovative methods to improve and deliver patient care, and design a world class health system. Over the past 60 years, the College of Nursing has seen more than 6,000 alumni graduate from its ranks. These nurses have gone on to serve our community and provide invaluable care to hundreds of thousands of patients.

Throughout its history, the University of New Mexico College of Nursing has demonstrated exemplary leadership in its field. For example, it was the first program in New Mexico to establish a Master of Science in Nursing degree, as well as a Doctorate of Nursing Practice. The school has also created nurse managed clinics and partnered with the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center to address the healthcare needs of veterans in our community. Furthermore, through their membership in the New Mexico Nurses Education Consortium, the College of Nursing has partnered with local community colleges to provide access to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing throughout the state. Lastly, the PhD program is one of only a few in the nation to offer a health policy track to train future leaders in nursing. We are very fortunate to have such an outstanding institution training our future healthcare providers.

It gives me great pleasure to report that the University of New Mexico College of Nursing has been recognized for these impressive accomplishments. In 2015, the Nursing was ranked tenth overall on Value Schools’ list of the top-valued undergraduate nursing programs. Dr. Nancy Ridenour, dean of the College of Nursing explained that “Credit goes largely to our renowned faculty who provides an excellent patient care that emphasizes working with rural and underserved populations and prepares our students to transform nursing and health care.”

Indeed, the University of New Mexico College of Nursing has proven itself a model in philosophy and community involvement. From July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 alone, the faculty and students from the College of Nursing spent more than 83,000 hours working in the community in order to provide healthcare...
services to more than 19,500 children, individual- 
ies and families through clinical practice and 
training exercises at more than 375 healthcare 
facilities throughout the state. The College of 
Nursing also emphasizes teaching its students 
how to serve rural and underserved popu- 
lations, as the university is committed to diver- 
ity in its classes so that its campuses will better 
reflect the communities its graduates go on to 
serve.

With a shortage of nurses in the country, 
especially in largely rural areas like New Mex- 
ican, it is fundamental that world class institu- 
tions like the University of New Mexico Col- 
lege of Nursing continue to train exceptional 
nurses who will serve our community for years 
to come. The New Mexico Health Care Work- 
force Committee estimates that New Mexico 
currently faces a shortage of at least 270 nurses. However, the care that nurses provide 
is the crux of our medical model. I am grateful 
for the tremendous work that the University of 
New Mexico College of Nursing has done to 
supply our state with such invaluable care- 
givers. Indeed, we must continue to support 
this world class institution and others like it.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to 
recognize this special and important institution 
for recently celebrating its 60th Anniversary. 
Congratulations to the University of New Mex- 
ican College of Nursing; keep up the great 
work.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JONNIE SOWELL NEESE

HON. JOE WILSON OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, 
last week, South Carolinians mourned the 
passing of Johnnie Sowell Neese of Sprin- 
gdale who was recognized as one of the state’s 
leading businesswomen. She was the state’s 
first female Republican candidate for office 
with the 1964 Goldwater Republican effort. At 
that time, women had not been elected to 
legislature. As a legislator in the Twentieth Century 
being Charlie Boineau in 1961. Mrs. Neese 
courageously spearheaded the promotion of 
the two-party system in South Carolina where 
Republicans are now super majorities in the 
legislature holding all statewide offices. They 
are led by Governor Nikki Haley, from her 
home county of Lexington, who is the state’s 
first female Governor in 340 years.

She and her late husband Harry carefully 
organized their professions as they success- 
fully raised five talented daughters who have 
now inspired six of their six grandchildren. I 
especially appreciate her “gift of adminis- 
tration” in that for seventeen years she was 
treasurer of my campaign as I served in the 
State Senate. She upheld flawlessly the stand- 
ard set by my predecessor and her friend 
Congressman Floyd Spence that “it must not 
only be right, it must look right,” as we suc- 
cessfully replaced an incumbent in the Repub- 
lican primary.

The following obituary was in The State 
newspaper of Columbia, S.C., on Saturday, 
January 30th:

Born in Kershaw, she was a daughter of the late John Wesley and Evelyn Bleason Johnson Sowell, Sr. She was a graduate of Kershaw High School and graduated from South Carolina State College, Johnson was a charter member of Holland Avenue Baptist Church, 801 12th Street, Cayce, SC, Pastor Dow Welsh and Pastor Charles Wilson will officiate. Interment will follow in Southland Memorial Gardens. The family will greet friends from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, January 30, 2016, at Thompson Funeral Home of Lexington, 4720 Augusta Road, Lex- 
ington, SC. Mrs. Neese passed away away Thurs- 
day, January 28, 2016.

Mrs. Neese was married to Johnnie Sowell, 
her late husband Harry, for more than 60 years. Mrs. Neese was a former president of the 
Ocean View Women’s Improvement Association, president of the North Carolina Women’s 
Institute, a former member of the Women’s 
League of the South Carolina Republican Party, 
a participant in several conventions, a member of the Benevolent, Building, Library, and Stewardship Committees. Mrs. Neese was named "Woman of Distinction" in 1996, by the Congaree Area Girl Scout Council and was a member of the West Colum- 
bia Casyc Junior Woman’s Club, former board member of the S.C. Federation of Woman’s 
Clubs, the former president of the Midlands Women’s Club, and a member of the South Carolina Chapter of the 
National Federation of Republican Women.

Mrs. Neese was predeceased by her 
husband, Harry Sowell, Sr. She was the second 
of three children of Johnnie Neese and 
Narcisse Neese Neese Edenfield; six grandsons, Ira Brent 
Deborah Neese, Sandra Neese Cooke, Tracey 
Lynda Neese (Gary Miller), Carol Neese, 
and Johnnie Sowell, Jr.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNI- 
VERSARY OF THE ANTONIO B. WON PAT GUAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 
AUTHORITY

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO 
OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to 
recognize and congratulate the staff and 
management of the Antonio B. Won Pat Guam 
International Airport Authority (GIAA) on their 
40th anniversary of service to the people of 
Guam. The Guam International Airport 
Authority has grown steadily over the past 40 years and has played a vital role in the development of 
Guam, especially success of the island’s 
visitor industry over the past 40 years. When 
the Guam Airport first began, all airport busi- 
ess was handled by the Guam Department of Commerce. In 1976, the GIAA 
became a government agency through the en- 
actment of Guam Public Law 13–57. During 
this period of the airport’s history, Pan Amer- 
ican Airways, Continental Air Micronesia and 
Japan Airlines were the primary carriers to 
serve Guam and utilize the facilities.

The Guam International Airport Authority 
had tremendous progress over the last 
40 years and has become a critical transpor- 
tation hub in the Asia-Pacific region. GIAA has 
facilitated the growth of Guam’s economy and 
visitor industry. Guam’s tourism economy re- 
lies heavily on GIAA facilities for a positive 
passenger experience when traveling to 
Guam. The airport has added two terminal 
buildings with the second and current terminal 
completed in September 1998 as part of a 
$241M expansion and construction project. 
This is the single largest improvement project 
completed by the Government of Guam.

As the airport expanded its operations, addi- 
tional airline carriers began service out of 
Guam in 1981. Continental added flights to 
Japan and Northwest Airlines began 
regularly scheduled services. In 1983, All 
Nippon Airways (ANA) began charter flights 
from Japan and then opened their international 
services three years later. Continental Air Mi- 
cronesia introduced direct flights between 
Guam and Hong Kong in 1984. Soon after in 
1986, the United States Congress passed the 
Omnibus Territories Act to include visa waiv- 
ers for several countries and expanded the 
doors for more tourism arrivals. The GIAA 
passed its “one million passenger” mark in 
1988 and was renamed the “Antonio B. Won 
Pat Guam International Air Terminal” after 
Guam’s first Delegate to the U.S. House of 
Representatives. Soon after in 1990, Korea 
was granted a visa waiver and Continental Air 
Micronesia began air services in Seoul and 
then expanded service to Singapore. In 1998 it 
took on more responsibility when it became the 
only commercial airport on Guam with the clo- 
sure of Naval Air Station. With increased serv- 
ces in the Asian region, Guam was ranked 
the 4th for the United States to and from Asia 
and Australia in 1999. Growth and expansion con- 
tinued for the GIAA after the turn of the new 
millennium and in 2007, the airport’s total eco- 
mic contributions were totaled at $1.7 billion 
with 20,440 jobs generated.

The Guam International Airport Authority 
has continued expanding the cargo and other 
facilities while practicing its duties as a re- 
sponsible neighbor and community partner. 
Anticipating the needs of an increased tourism 
economy and the growth associated with the 
military realignment, the airport undertook 
early expansion programs to increase cargo 
traffic to Guam. Further, a multimillion dollar 
noise mitigation program was implemented for 
houses in the area beginning in 2009. Air 
services have expanded even more with in- 
creased flights in the region on new and exist- 
ing expanding airlines. GIAA has continued 
to pay for consistent growth of Guam’s airport 
facilities throughout the turbulent history of airline mergers. The airport has also adapted to wel- 
come Russian tourists when President Obama
IN RECOGNITION OF UNIVISION SAN DIEGO’S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JUAN VARGAS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Univision San Diego.

Founded on February 14, 1989, Univision San Diego made its debut by airing the Rose Parade on January 1, 1990. On March 15, 1990, Univision San Diego became a full newscast and began presenting local news capsules. It has since provided news, sports, specials, variety and talk shows to the residents of San Diego County. Univision San Diego has become the premier Spanish-language news station in the region. Operating under the mantra of “contigo”, meaning “with you”, Univision San Diego focuses on the issues that are the most relevant to the Hispanic community: education, health, economy, immigration, and the day-to-day impacts of the citizens on their communities. Univision San Diego’s dedication to the most pressing issues attracts an average of a quarter-million viewers weekly.

I would like to send Univision San Diego my sincerest congratulations on reaching this important milestone.

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bloomington, Indiana’s High School Orchestra, the Hoosier Youth Philharmonic.

I want to congratulate the Hoosier Youth Philharmonic on being invited to perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. as part of the “2016 Capital Orchestra Festival.” As a resident of Bloomington, I am particularly proud of the Hoosier Philharmonic Orchestra’s achievement this year. They have worked very hard, and merit respect and celebration.

Accomplishments such as this are achieved through diligence and commitment. The Hoosier Youth Philharmonic is one of seven outstanding North American orchestras invited to perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. On February 14, 2016, the Hoosier Youth Philharmonic will perform on the same stage as many great American and international artists, such as La Scala Opera Company, Yo-Yo Ma, and the London Philharmonic Opera.

I want to commend Music Director, Jane Gouker on her successful 36-year tenure as the orchestra’s conductor. Mobilizing the 103 piece student orchestra, replete with instruments, luggage, and chaperones is a Herculean effort, and Director Gouker has executed seamlessly. The Hoosier Youth Philharmonic serves as an inspiration to many members of the community. Bloomington and Hoosier students across Southern Indiana. I wish them the best of luck as they perform on Sunday, February 14th at the renowned Kennedy Center.

WINNING THE DECATHLON. Curtis Eaton to win the event in which he set the world record. Not only is Curtis a world class athlete, but he is also a true role model. Curtis recognized that there is more in sports than just winning—team play and sportsmanship matter just as much and for this he was awarded the International Fair Play Award in 2012. Curtis also received the Award of the Year award in 2012 and 2014 from the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association National Field.

Now that Curtis’ illustrious college career has ended, he has turned pro. In September, 2014 he moved to Phoenix, Arizona, to train at the World Athletic Center with other star athletes from around the world. He made his professional debut at 2015 Azusa Pacific University and placed second. A month later, Curtis qualified for the Olympic trials which will take place later this year in July. If Curtis places in the top three he will qualify for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Curtis is a fierce competitor, a tremendous athlete, and a rare and true model of sportsmanship. We are lucky to call him our own, and it has been a pleasure to watch his many victories. I look forward to watching his career blossom, and I will be cheering on as he tries out for the 2016 Olympics.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bloomington, Indiana’s High School Orchestra, the Hoosier Youth Philharmonic.

I want to congratulate the Hoosier Youth Philharmonic on being invited to perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. as part of the “2016 Capital Orchestra Festival.” As a resident of Bloomington, I am particularly proud of the Hoosier Philharmonic Orchestra’s achievement this year. They have worked very hard, and merit respect and celebration.

Accomplishments such as this are achieved through diligence and commitment. The Hoosier Youth Philharmonic is one of seven outstanding North American orchestras invited to perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. On February 14, 2016, the Hoosier Youth Philharmonic will perform on the same stage as many great American and international artists, such as La Scala Opera Company, Yo-Yo Ma, and the London Philharmonic Opera.

I want to commend Music Director, Jane Gouker on her successful 36-year tenure as the orchestra’s conductor. Mobilizing the 103 piece student orchestra, replete with instruments, luggage, and chaperones is a Herculean effort, and Director Gouker has executed seamlessly. The Hoosier Youth Philharmonic serves as an inspiration to many members of the community. Bloomington and Hoosier students across Southern Indiana. I wish them the best of luck as they perform on Sunday, February 14th at the renowned Kennedy Center.

IN RECOGNITION OF UNIVISION SAN DIEGO’S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JUAN VARGAS
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Univision San Diego.

Founded on February 14, 1989, Univision San Diego made its debut by airing the Rose Parade on January 1, 1990. On March 15, 1990, Univision San Diego became a full newscast and began presenting local news capsules. It has since provided news, sports, specials, variety and talk shows to the residents of San Diego County. Univision San Diego has become the premier Spanish-language news station in the region. Operating under the mantra of “contigo”, meaning “with you”, Univision San Diego focuses on the issues that are the most relevant to the Hispanic community: education, health, economy, immigration, and the day-to-day impacts of the citizens on their communities. Univision San Diego’s dedication to the most pressing issues attracts an average of a quarter-million viewers weekly.

I would like to send Univision San Diego my sincerest congratulations on reaching this important milestone.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bloomington, Indiana’s High School Orchestra, the Hoosier Youth Philharmonic.

I want to congratulate the Hoosier Youth Philharmonic on being invited to perform at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. as part of the “2016 Capital Orchestra Festival.” As a resident of Bloomington, I am particularly proud of the Hoosier Philharmonic Orchestra’s achievement this year. They have worked very hard, and merit respect and celebration.

Accomplishments such as this are achieved through diligence and commitment. The Hoosier Youth Philharmonic is one of seven outstanding North American orchestras invited to perform at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. On February 14, 2016, the Hoosier Youth Philharmonic will perform on the same stage as many great American and international artists, such as La Scala Opera Company, Yo-Yo Ma, and the London Philharmonic Opera.

I want to commend Music Director, Jane Gouker on her successful 36-year tenure as the orchestra’s conductor. Mobilizing the 103 piece student orchestra, replete with instruments, luggage, and chaperones is a Herculean effort, and Director Gouker has executed seamlessly. The Hoosier Youth Philharmonic serves as an inspiration to many members of the community. Bloomington and Hoosier students across Southern Indiana. I wish them the best of luck as they perform on Sunday, February 14th at the renowned Kennedy Center.
uncertainty in wages and work. I rise along with my House colleague ROBERT J. WITTMAN to introduce a bill to clarify certain due process rights of federal employees serving in sensitive positions. Our bill would overturn an unprecedented federal court decision, Kaplan v. Conyers and FEDPB, which stripped many federal employees of the right to independent review of an agency decision removing them from a job on grounds of negligibility. The case was brought by two Department of Defense (DOD) employees, Rhonda Conyers, an accounting technician, and Devon Northover, a commissary management specialist, who were permanently demoted and suspended from their jobs after they were found to no longer be eligible to serve in noncritical sensitive positions. In 2014, the Supreme Court declined to hear the case, which allowed the appeals court decision to stand.

Specifically, the decision prevents federal workers who are designated as “noncritical sensitive” from appealing to the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) if they are removed from their jobs. Noncritical sensitive jobs include those that do not have access to classified information. The decision would affect at least 200,000 DOD employees who are designated as noncritical sensitive. Even more seriously, most federal employees could potentially lose the same right to an independent review of an agency’s decision because of a rule by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), which went into effect in July 2015, that permits agencies head to designate most jobs in the federal government as noncritical sensitive.

The Kaplan decision undermines Title 5, section 7701 of the Civil Service Act, which ensures due process rights for federal workers required by the U.S. Constitution. Stripping employees whose work does not involve classified matters of the right of review of an agency decision that removes them from their jobs opens entirely new avenues for unreviewable, arbitrary action or retaliation by an agency head and, in addition, makes a mockery of whistleblower protections enacted in the 112th Congress. My bill would stop the use of “national security” to repeal a vital component of civil service protection and due process.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING CECIL HULSEY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding achievements and successful career of Cecil Hulsey from Farmington, Missouri. After more than sixty years of serving the Farmington area, he and neighboring families have provided affordable homes and reliable insurance coverage. Cecil Hulsey has decided to retire at the age of ninety.

As a native of the Farmington area, his devotion to his hometown was evident even as a young boy. During World War II, while serving as a pilot in the U.S. Navy, he convinced his fellow crew members to name their plane the “City of Farmington.” Stationed in Guam during the war, Mr. Hulsey and the “City of Farmington” would officially fly 27 missions, once flying five missions in nine days.

After the war, Mr. Hulsey began a career selling insurance following a recommendation from his family doctor that prompted him to interview with a local insurance agent. After nine years of exclusive work in the insurance field, he entered the real estate business in 1957.

Over the years, Mr. Hulsey has been an active member of the community not only as a businessman, but as a community leader. He was a member of the Farmington Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club, serving as president of both organizations. His efforts were instrumental in helping to begin the construction of a new high school in Farmington.

For his many contributions to the Farmington community and his personal successes, it is my pleasure to recognize Cecil Hulsey before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING JOHN O'BRIEN, PRESIDENT OF THE WEST SIDE IRISH AMERICAN CLUB

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. RENACCI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate John O'Brien, upon the achievement of twenty years as President of one of the premier Irish organizations in America, the West Side Irish American Club.

The West Side Irish American Club exists to preserve and promote the rich Irish cultural heritage in song, dance, literature, sports and traditions. It provides a forum for the enrichment of family and the enhancement of friendships. John O'Brien demonstrates a commitment to the Irish community on a daily basis. Service to the Irish community is the foundation of John O'Brien's endeavors. John O'Brien exemplifies the spirit of the WSIA member—love of culture and celebration of community.

John O'Brien was born in Kiltoon, County Roscommon, Ireland and arrived in North America first in Montreal, Canada where he met his wife, Eileen. The O'Briens settled in Cleveland, Ohio in 1963. They raised four children, Noreen, Catherine, Patricia and John Jr. John O'Brien was first elected President of the West Side Irish American Club in 1995. Under his leadership many capital improvements to the facility have been achieved, including a new storage building and workshop, a beautiful gazebo, conversion to a city water and sewer system, complete renovation of the Great Hall, addition of the Madison and Abbey Rooms, and the upgrade of the football field. He also oversees the “Tuesday Volunteers,” doing countless maintenance and cleaning projects.

John O'Brien's dedication, his steady hand and his quiet, unassuming demeanor and his humility inspire others to participate in club activities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing of John O'Brien for his constant dedication to preserving Irish culture and to giving future generations of Irish-Americans the gift of knowledge of their traditions.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF LARRY PURDOM IN MISSOURI CATTLE BREEDING

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Purdom, for his legacy of success and innovation in Missouri dairy cattle breeding.

Starting in 1957, Larry and his wife Alice have cultivated one of the most outstanding herds of Holstein dairy cows in Missouri. He had his first Grand Champion cow at the Missouri State Fair in 1964, which he repeated in 1966, 1976, 1977 and 1978. He also had several other championships recognized at the Ozark Empire Fair, the Missouri Dairyman’s Institute, and the Southern National Show. In the show ring, Larry had 35 cows win All-Missouri honors.

In addition to his prize winning cows, Larry has had an enormous impact on the development of Missouri Holstein cattle as among the best in the nation. His prize winning bull Senator Flame was placed in the Carnation Genetics Al stud in 1972, improving many herds around the country. Larry has also provided bulls for families on farms across Southwest Missouri and Northwest Arkansas, helping to augment herds where artificial insemination was not practicable.

Larry has also personally received the 2011 Missouri Dairy Hall of Honors Distinguished Dairy Cattle Breeder award, in addition to the Missouri Dairy Hall of Honors Dairy Leadership Award in 2002. He served as President of the Missouri Dairy Association from 2003–2014, and also served on the National Dairy Board, as well both the division and corporate boards of the Midwest Dairy Association.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my gratitude and admiration for what Larry Purdom has accomplished in his career. His prize winning cattle have improved the stock of herds throughout the state, as well as helping to establish the Missouri Holstein as a premier breed of dairy cattle. On behalf of the 7th District, I congratulate him on his dedication and his well-earned accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING LESLEY LEON GUERRERO FOR BEING CHOOSED AS THE GUAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2015 REINA A. LEDDY GUAM YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 1, 2016

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lesley Leon Guerrero on being selected as the Guam Chamber of Commerce 2015 Reina A. Leddy Guam Young Professional of the Year. Lesley was named the Guam Young Professional of the Year on Friday, January 15, 2016. She is the Vice President and Director of Customer Service for the Bank of Guam where she leads a team dedicated to providing exceptional customer service and helping clients achieve financial success.
Prior to joining the Bank of Guam, Lesley spent eight years in public service with the Guam Department of Homeland Security and the Office of Civil Defense. During her time there, she helped lead response and recovery efforts during various natural disasters, including Typhoon Chataan and Super Typhoon Pongsana.

Lesley is a 1997 graduate of Notre Dame High School in Talofofo, Guam and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Chaminade University of Honolulu. In December of 2015, Lesley graduated from the University of Guam with a Professional Master of Business Administration degree.

Lesley has been a member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce Guam Young Professionals Committee for the last two years. The organization seeks to energize, engage and empower young professionals to be inspired, influential and connected. She has been an active member of the organization, helping young professionals to recognize the economic and social importance of engaging in all aspects of our community and region to encourage them to become future leaders. Lesley was nominated and chosen as the Guam Young Professional of the Year from among five nominees within the local business community.

Additionally to her professional work, Lesley actively supports many local non-profit organizations. Lesley is a member of the Lupus Awareness Group of Guam which seeks to provide advocacy and identify the needs of those with Lupus on Guam. She also serves as the Board Secretary for Junior Achievement Guam which is a local organization that promotes entrepreneurship to Guam's youth. Lesley is a founding member and Vice President of Let's Move, a local non-profit organization dedicated to fighting childhood obesity on Guam.

Again, I extend my congratulations to Lesley on being named the Guam Chamber of Commerce 2015 Reina A. Leddy Guam Young Professional of the Year and I commend her for her service and dedication to the people of Guam throughout her career. I also extend a sincere congratulations to Lesley's parents, Kenny, Leo Suerra and Gil and Connie Shinohara. I look forward to her continuing to be a role model in our community and work to improve our island.

HONORING MR. GEORGE GRAY

HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR
OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. MacARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George Gray of New Jersey's Third Congressional District, and to express my sincerest gratitude to him for his service to our nation and commend him as to all of his accomplishments, specifically his Congressional Gold Medal.

Mr. Gray has received a Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his status as a Montford Point Marine. This medal is the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress and recognizes Mr. Gray as one of the first African American Marines to enlist in World War II.

After enlistment, Mr. Gray was sent to the segregated boot camp for African American Marines, Montford Point. Conditions were severe and required the utmost mental perseverance and will to go on. Mr. Gray was determined to prove himself as more than competent Marine. After completing basic training at Montford Point, he spent four years at war with the 51st Defense Battalion. He fought valiantly for our ideals and to assist in liberation efforts in the Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey's Third Congressional District are tremendously proud to have Mr. George Gray as an involved member of their community. It is my honor to recognize both his personal military accomplishments, as well as his contributions to ending segregation in the military, and honorably serving and protecting our country in World War II, before the United States House of Representatives.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA JUDICIAL FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2016

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Judicial Financial Transparency Act of 2016, a bill that would enhance financial disclosure requirements for D.C. Court judges, making them similar to the disclosure requirements already in place for Article III federal judges. Although current federal law does require D.C. Superior Court and D.C. Court of Appeals judges to file annual financial reports, much of the information included in those reports remains confidential. For example, while judges are required to submit information about their income, investments, liabilities, and gifts, current law only makes public judges’ connections to charities, private organizations, and businesses, and honorariums that are more than $300. My bill would bring some much-needed transparency to the D.C. Courts by making all of this information—except for a judge’s personally identifiable information—available for public inspection.

This legislation is particularly necessary because open government advocates have found the D.C. Courts to be seriously lacking in transparency. In fact, a 2014 survey by the Center for Public Integrity that took a comprehensive look at each state’s judicial financial disclosure rules, gave the District a failing grade. D.C. Court judges already submit enough financial information to improve the District’s standing—my bill would make it public.

Only Congress can make these necessary changes. I urge my colleagues to support this good government bill, to improve transparency for judges in the District of Columbia.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPUTY SAVES LIFE OF MOTORIST

HON. PAUL COOK
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic actions of San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Deputy Asiah Medawar. In the early morning hours of January 15, 2016, Deputy Medawar was dispatched to a traffic collision in Victorville, California. When she arrived, the vehicle was partially engulfed in flames and an unidentified citizen was attempting to remove the injured driver.

Sensing the severity of the situation, Deputy Medawar immediately sprang into action and was instrumental in dislodging the unconscious driver from underneath the dashboard. Deputy Medawar and the unidentified citizen dragged the driver away from the vehicle, which burst into flames shortly thereafter. The driver incurred severe burns to his hand but did not suffer life-threatening injuries.

Because of Deputy Medawar’s selfless actions, the driver’s life was spared. I want to thank Deputy Medawar for her bravery and sacrifice on behalf of our High Desert community in San Bernardino County. Her actions reflect great credit upon the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department and other law enforcement personnel throughout our country. I would like to also offer my sincere gratitude to the unidentified citizen who assisted Deputy Medawar during this heroic event.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

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 $18,989,803,014,663.70. We’ve added $8,362,925,965,750.62 to our debt in 7 years. This is over $8 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING JOHNNY FISHMAN

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I along with Representative Deutch rise today in honor of Johnny Fishman on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah. We know that Johnny has been eagerly looking forward to this moment, and we are honored to share this special day with his family and friends.

As a seventh grader at Pine Crest School, Johnny excels in math and science. He is known among his peers and teachers for his outstanding character, friendliness, and care...
Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church on their 25 years of worship and fellowship in Arlington, Texas and the surrounding community.

The founding congregants of Greater Community MBC heard their call to worship in 1991. Reverend Kennedy Jones first led a group of twenty-two founding members and began holding services at the Harvest Time Church on Cooper Street in Arlington. Beginning with a single Sunday afternoon service, the Greater Community family quickly outgrew its original location. During its first year, Greater Community MBC purchased the property where the church now resides at 126 East Park Row.

Construction on the new church was completed in 1993. The then 60 member strong congregation moved into its new building and continued to grow rapidly. By the end of 1996, there were 300 regular members, three choirs, a whole host of new deacons and the seeds of some of the Arlington community’s most effective ministries were planted.

From its humble beginnings as a small church with a single afternoon service, Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church now holds three separate services at both their east and west campuses, and is home to over 1500 members. With their expanded ministry offerings, Greater Community continues to serve the Arlington community in a variety of ways.

Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church has maintained its commitment to growing its ministry through works of love and service. As described in Ephesians 4:12, Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church has been and will continue “to equip His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”

In honor of Greater Community Missionary Baptist Church and its 25 years of service to the Arlington community, this statement will be submitted on Monday, February 1, 2016.
At the age of 15, Mrs. Neidig moved back to Mexico where she pursued her passion for education. She taught elementary and middle school students, and played a critical role in having a high school built in Jojutla. She was the only bilingual teacher and referred to, by both students and parents, as “La Teacher”. It is the hard work and dedication daily that makes America exceptional. She has shown true leadership in her profession and community.

Mrs. Neidig went on to marry Edward William Neidig and had two sons, Andres and David. She left Jojutla in 1962 for Colorado, where she still resides. Having served the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Mrs. Neidig as she celebrates her birthday.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mrs. Neidig.

IN MEMORIAM DON W. STRAUCH
JULY 8, 1952—JANUARY 11, 2016

HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Don W. Strauch Jr. (Mayor Strauch), Mayor of Mesa, AZ from 1980–1984, Mesa City Council Member from 1972–1978 and Arizona State Representative from 1987–1988. In 2003, Mayor Strauch was inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame for his work with the American Legion, VFW, and his contributions as a civic leader.

Mayor Strauch was instrumental in creating the Mesa that we know today. He launched the Mesa Sister Cities program and championed the proposed Mesa Arts Center; he broke down walls of discrimination and advanced civil rights throughout Mesa and Arizona. His negotiations with McDonnell Douglas (now Boeing) convinced the company to locate in Mesa. Mesa Fire and Medical is a model of efficiency and innovation today because of the groundwork that Mayor Strauch did during his time as mayor. He saw Mesa libraries as a vital community asset and worked to improve them.

Mayor Strauch’s optimism, pragmatism and sincere belief in the greatness of Mesa and its citizens were always at the center of his work. He had the strength to put partisan issues aside and work with a diverse group of community partners during an important time in Mesa’s growth. His humility and pragmatism are leadership examples that we can all learn from in our work as Members of Congress.

Mayor Strauch died on January 11, 2016 after complications from a fall. He leaves behind his beloved wife Chris, his partner in all things for over 66 years, his daughter Christy and a large and loving family. Members, please join me in extending condolences to Mayor Strauch’s family and the City of Mesa on the inconsiderable loss of this extraordinary man. Mayor Strauch will be largely missed and fondly remembered by everyone whose life was made better because of his selfless contributions.

HON. LOUIE GOHMERT
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize today the great accomplishment of the Waskom Wildcats football team, a team which—for the second year in a row—has captured the title of Class 3A Division II Texas State Football Champions.

The Wildcats’ winning season culminated with their thirty-first consecutive win, a steller streak they began during their 2014 championship season. Waskom ended this 2015 season undefeated with a perfect 16–0 record.

The Waskom Wildcats were eager for a rematch with the only team to beat them in the prior season, and began their run to the title by toppling a talented team from Center with a 34–22 victory. Equally satisfying victories followed, as the Wildcats pounced on teams from all over east Texas in their quest to secure a spot in the championship.

The state championship game found the Waskom Wildcats in a tangle with the Franklin Lions. The Wildcats rallied from an early deficit to take the lead at halftime, then a drive to a second consecutive state championship with a decisive 33–21 final score.

The life lessons learned about teamwork and discipline will no doubt improve every participant in immeasurable ways.

My heartfelt congratulations are extended to Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Whitney Keeling and his staff including Coaches Meredyth Kubik, Greg Pearson, Gary Wilson, Jeff Lyles, Vencent Lee, David Higginbotham, Matt Goode, Justin Watson, Frank Crisp, Joe Williams, and Lorenza Thompson; as also, Managers Isaac Irving, Cameron

A team and its coaches cannot soar to the heights of champions without the encouragement and full support of the school itself starting at the top with Superintendent Jimmy E. Cox and Principal Kathy Watson, to whom a debt of gratitude is also owed. Additional laudatory acclaim and gratitude must also go to the entire city of Waskom which once again revealed itself to be a tight knit community of undying support for the champion Wildcats.

May God continue to bless these young people, their families, friends and all those who refer to Waskom as their home. It is a tremendous honor to congratulate the 2015 State Champion Waskom Wildcats, as their legacy and the story of Waskom is one of the United States Congression Record which will endure as long as there is a United States of America.
Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to celebrate the work of my friend Stephen J. Pringle. His passion and commitment to the farmers and ranchers of Texas will long be remembered and I congratulate him on his retirement.

NEEDVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FFA WINS BIG

HON. PETE OLSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Needville High School’s Future Farmers of America (FFA) livestock judging team who recently won Reserve Grand National Champion at the Western National Roundup in Denver.

The team, comprised of Kutter Korczynski, Myles Hackstedt, Craig Todd and Ty Thomas, competed against other teams from around the country in the livestock judging contest. The teammates evaluated and ranked 40 different animals in 10 classes. After evaluating the livestock, the team had to prepare a series of speeches to explain their evaluations. This is a great victory for their agriculture science teacher, Michael Poe, and the rest of the Blue Jay community. We are excited to see them represent Texas at the world competition in Scotland.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Needville High livestock judging team. They have made the community proud.

THE NEED TO TAKE ACTION TO ENSURE THAT ASSETS OF NATIONAL BANKS IN CIS COUNTRIES ARE NOT USED TO BENEFIT TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns about the banking industry in former CIS countries involving a bank in Latvia, ABLV. I have learned that ABLV was found to have not engaged in any activity regarding the Government of Moldova and/or activities related to the misappropriation of government funds and that there has been a thorough investigation of this matter and ABLV was not implicated in any wrongdoing with regard to this or any other matter in Moldova.

In Moldova more than $1 billion was stolen from the Moldovan national treasury and a large portion of that money appears to have ended up in EU banks in Latvia.

I still call upon the Administration and the Congress to investigate whether assets of the other national banks of countries of the former Soviet Union are not being plundered and used, knowingly or unknowingly, to benefit terrorist organizations.

BIG TIME GROWTH FOR HOUSTON MARINERS

HON. PETE OLSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate San Jacinto College for their success in opening a new 45,000 square-foot maritime training center.

San Jacinto College sits next to the Port of Houston, which gives students prime opportunity to further their marine career through interaction with community and industry partners. With its history dating back to the 1960s, San Jacinto College is now home to almost 30,000 students across 3 campuses and 12 extension centers. The new maritime training center is an excellent addition to their already successful campuses. This new facility contains three ship simulators, an engineering room with hydraulics, a swimming pool, and much more. San Jacinto College is a great place for students to grow and to develop critical education and workforce skills. We're proud of the many opportunities it offers to students in the Houston area.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations to San Jacinto College for their new training center. We can't wait to see what happens next.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on January 13, 2016, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote on the Iran Terror Finance Transparency Act (H.R. 3662). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted no.

NATURALLY BECK BUILDS TO SUCCESS

HON. PETE OLSON
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 1, 2016

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Beck Junior High Robotics team. Naturally Beck, for winning the Katy Qualifier Robotics Tournament. This achievement allowed them to advance to the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) LEGO League Championship in Stafford, Texas.

Naturally Beck, won the first place championship for the second year in a row, defeating 23 other teams from all over Houston at the Katy tournament. The Naturally Beck team consists of five members and two mentors for the 2015–2016 roster. Students competing at the FIRST LEGO League really put their engineering skills to the test. By using LEGO Mindstorms NXT technology, they crafted the perfect robot for research purposes. This year, Naturally Beck’s research project consisted of an inventive solution to address the way the...
community handles its trash. Congratulations to all of Naturally Beck’s team members and mentors for their victory. We are proud of the hard work they have accomplished and wish them luck in the future competitions.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Beck Jr. High team for advancing to the FIRST LEGO League Championship.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2016 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 3
9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine an independent perspective of United States defense policy in the Asia-Pacific region.
SD-G50

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the Stream Protection Rule, focusing on impacts on the environment and implications for Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act implementation.
SD-406

10 a.m.
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine spending on unauthorized programs.
SD-608

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine strains on the European Union, focusing on implications for American foreign policy.
SD-419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine Canada’s fast-track refugee plan, focusing on implications for United States national security.
SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the need for transparency in the asbestos trusts.
SD-226

2:15 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
Business meeting to consider S. 1125, to authorize and implement the water rights compact among the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, the State of Montana, and the United States, and S. 1963, to authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the substandard quality of Indian health care in the Great Plains.
SH-216

FEBRUARY 4
10 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan.
SD-G50

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mary Katherine Wakefield, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, Andrew LaMont Eanes, of Kansas, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2019, and Elizabeth Ann Copeland, of Texas, and Vik Edwin Stoll, of Missouri, both to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.
SD-342

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet
To hold hearings to examine ensuring intermodal Universal Service Fund support for rural America.
SD-215

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Beth F. Cobert, of California, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider S. 247, to amend section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem specified activities in support of terrorism as re-nunciation of United States nationality, S. 483, to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and S. 324, to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.
SH-226

2:30 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.
SH-219

FEBRUARY 5
4 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
To receive a closed briefing on the way forward in Syria and Iraq.
SVC-217

FEBRUARY 9
2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense nuclear acquisition programs and the nuclear doctrine in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2017 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR-232A

FEBRUARY 11
9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
SD-G50

FEBRUARY 23
10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of the Interior.
SD-366

MARCH 3
10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment
To hold hearings to examine regulatory reforms to improve equity market structure.
SD-338

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Department of Energy.
SD-366

MARCH 8
10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the Forest Service.
SD-366

POSTPONEMENTS
FEBRUARY 4
10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine energy-related trends in advanced manufacturing and workforce development.
SD-366
HIGHLIGHTS
See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action
Routine Proceedings, pages S405–S452.
Measures Introduced: Four bills were introduced, as follows: S. 2474–2477.
Page S424

Measures Passed:
Honoring the Memory of Anita Ashok Datar:
Senate agreed to S. Res. 347, honoring the memory and legacy of Anita Ashok Datar and condemning the terrorist attack in Bamako, Mali, on November 20, 2015.
Page S450

Measures Considered:
Energy Policy Modernization Act—Agreement:
Senate resumed consideration of S. 2012, to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:
Page S405–421
Adopted:
Murkowski (for Gardner) Amendment No. 2970 (to Amendment No. 2953), to modify a provision relating to energy management requirements.
Page S420
Murkowski (for Reed/Heller) Amendment No. 2989 (to Amendment No. 2953), to ensure that funds for research and development of electric grid energy storage are used efficiently.
Page S420
Murkowski (for Inhofe) Amendment No. 2991 (to Amendment No. 2953), to modify provisions relating to brownfields grants.
Page S420
Murkowski (for Daines) Amendment No. 3119 (to Amendment No. 2953), to require that the 21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board membership also represent cybersecurity.
Page S420
Murkowski (for Murphy) Amendment No. 3019 (to Amendment No. 2953), to promote the use of reclaimed refrigerants in Federal facilities.
Page S420
Murkowski (for Hirono) Amendment No. 3066 (to Amendment No. 2953), to modify a provision relating to the energy workforce pilot grant program.
Page S420
Murkowski (for Udall/Heinrich) Amendment No. 3137 (to Amendment No. 2953), to modify a provision relating to a Secretarial order.
Page S420
Murkowski (for Flake) Modified Amendment No. 3056 (to Amendment No. 2953), to include other Federal departments and agencies in an evaluation of potentially duplicative green building programs.
Pages S420–421
Pending:
Murkowski Amendment No. 2953, in the nature of a substitute.
Page S405
Murkowski (for Cassidy/Markey) Amendment No. 2954 (to Amendment No. 2953), to provide for certain increases in, and limitations on, the drawdown and sales of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.
Page S405
Murkowski Amendment No. 2963 (to Amendment No. 2953), to modify a provision relating to bulk-power system reliability impact statements.
Page S405

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that it be in order to call up Lee Amendment No. 3023 (to Amendment No. 2953), and Franken Amendment No. 3115 (to Amendment No. 2953); and at 2:30 p.m., on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, Senate vote on or in relation to Lee Amendment No. 3023 (to Amendment No. 2953), and Franken Amendment No. 3115 (to Amendment No. 2953), in the order listed, with no second-degree amendments in order prior to the votes, and a 60 vote affirmative threshold required for adoption; and that the time between 2:15 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., be equally divided in the usual form, and that there be two minutes of debate, equally divided prior to each vote.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Tuesday, February 2, 2016.
Page S450
Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, an Agreement on Social Security between the United States and Hungary, consisting of a principal agreement and an administrative agreement; which was referred to the Committee on Finance. (PM–38)

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

Ricardo A. Aguilera, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

R. David Harden, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Routine lists in the Army and Marine Corps.

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

John Morton, of Massachusetts, to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, which was sent to the Senate on June 16, 2015.

Additional Cosponsors:

Additional Statements:

Privileges of the Floor:

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:41 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 2, 2016. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S450.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 27 public bills, H.R. 4398–4424; and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 109; and H. Res. 593, were introduced.

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3382, to amend the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act to enhance recreational opportunities, environmental restoration activities, and forest management activities in the Lake Tahoe Basin, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–404, Part 1);

H.R. 677, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for annual cost-of-living adjustments to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–405);

H.R. 2187, to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise its regulations regarding the qualifications of natural persons as accredited investors, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–406);

H.R. 2209, to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to treat certain municipal obligations as level 2A liquid assets, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–407);

H.R. 3784, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish an Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation and a Small Business Capital Formation Advisory Committee, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 114–408);

H.R. 4168, to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act (H. Rept. 114–409);

H.R. 1670, to direct the Architect of the Capitol to place in the United States Capitol a chair honoring American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action (H. Rept. 114–410); and

H. Res. 594, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3700) to provide housing opportunities in the United States through modernization of various housing programs, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 114–411).
Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Emmer (MN) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Recess: The House recessed at 12:01 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Recess: The House recessed at 2:04 p.m. and reconvened at 3:14 p.m.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

**Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act:** H.R. 2187, amended, to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise its regulations regarding the qualifications of natural persons as accredited investors, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 347 yeas to 8 nays, Roll No. 46; Pages H378–379, H401


**Small Business Capital Formation Enhancement Act:** H.R. 4168, to amend the Small Business Investment Incentive Act of 1980 to require an annual review by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the annual government-business forum on capital formation that is held pursuant to such Act, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 390 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 47; Pages H382–384, H402

**Requiring the appropriate Federal banking agencies to treat certain municipal obligations as level 2A liquid assets:** H.R. 2209, to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to treat certain municipal obligations as level 2A liquid assets; Pages H384–387

**International Megan’s Law to Prevent Demand for Child Sex Trafficking:** Concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 515, 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, and requesting foreign governments to notify the United States when a known child-sex offender is seeking to enter the United States; Pages H387–394

**Trafficking Prevention in Foreign Affairs Contracting Act:** H.R. 400, amended, to require the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to submit reports on definitions of placement and recruitment fees for purposes of enabling compliance with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000; Pages H394–396

**Electrify Africa Act:** S. 2152, to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth; and Pages H396–H400

**Coast Guard Authorization Act:** Concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 4188, to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. Pages H402–420

Recess: The House recessed at 5:24 p.m. and reconvened at 6:29 p.m. Page H401

**Presidential Message:** Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted an Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and Hungary?referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 114–95). Page H400

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H401 and H402. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

**Committee Meetings**

**HOUSING OPPORTUNITY THROUGH MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2015**

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 3700, the “Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2015”. The committee granted, by voice vote, a structured rule for H.R. 3700. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order as original text for the purpose of amendment an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 114–42 and provides that it shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided...
and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Testimony was heard from Representatives Luetkemeyer and Maxine Waters of California.

BUSINESS MEETING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a business meeting on Budget Views and Estimates. The Budget Views and Estimates passed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D25)

S. 142, to require special packaging for liquid nicotine containers. Signed on January 28, 2016. (Public Law 114–116)

S. 1115, to close out expired grants. Signed on January 28, 2016. (Public Law 114–117)


COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2016

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the implementation of the decision to open all ground combat units to women, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to receive a closed briefing on Russia, the European Union, and American foreign policy, 5 p.m., SVC–217.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine frontline response to terrorism in America, 10:15 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the future of the EB–5 regional center program, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine occupational licensing and the state action doctrine, 2 p.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the Budget Views and Estimates Letter of the Committee on Agriculture for the agencies and programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee for fiscal year 2017, 9:30 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture and Research, hearing entitled “Opportunities and Challenges in Direct Marketing—A View from the Field”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.


Committee on Education and the Workforce, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4293, the “Affordable Retirement Advice Protection Act”; and H.R. 4294, the “Strengthening Access to Valuable Education and Retirement Support Act of 2015”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.


Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Status of the Public Safety Broadband Network”, 10:15 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, business meeting on Committee’s views and estimates on the budget, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Unsustainable Federal Spending and the Debt Limit”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.


Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, hearing entitled “FISA Amendments Act”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn. This hearing will be closed.


Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans, hearing on H.R. 3070, the “EEZ Clarification Act”; and H.R. 4245, to exempt importation and exportation of sea urchins and sea cucumbers from licensing requirements under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.


Full Committee, markup on H.R. 482, the “Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act
of 2015”; H.R. 812, the “Indian Trust Asset Management Demonstration Project Act of 2015”; H.R. 890, to correct the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Unit P16; H.R. 894, to extend the authorization of the Highlands Conservation Act; H.R. 1296, to amend the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act to clarify certain settlement terms, and for other purposes; H.R. 1475, the “Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2015”; H.R. 1815, the “Eastern Nevada Land Implementation Improvement Act”; H.R. 2273, to amend the Colorado River Storage Project Act to authorize the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle Reservoir; H.R. 2538, the “Lytton Rancheria Homelands Act of 2015”; H.R. 2857, to facilitate the addition of park administration at the Coltsville National Historical Park, and for other purposes; H.R. 2880, the “Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Act of 2015”; H.R. 3004, to amend the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission; H.R. 3056, the “National 9/11 Memorial at the World Trade Center Act”; H.R. 3079, to take certain Federal land located in Tuolomne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolomne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, and for other purposes; H.R. 3371, the “Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 2015”; H.R. 3342, to provide for stability of title to certain lands in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes; H.R. 3620, to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to provide access to certain vehicles serving residents of municipalities adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and for other purposes; and H.R. 4119, to authorize the exchange of certain land located in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Jackson County, Mississippi, between the National Park Service and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and for other purposes, 4 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled “U.S. Department of Education: Investigation of the CIO”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security, hearing entitled “Seeking Justice for Victims of Palestinian Terrorism in Israel”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.


Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Paris Climate Promise: A Bad Deal for America”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.


Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Choice Consolidation: Evaluating Eligibility Requirements for Care in the Community”, 10 a.m., 334 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Reaching America’s Potential: Delivering Growth and Opportunity for All Americans”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of February 2 through February 5, 2016

Senate Chamber

On Tuesday, Senate will continue consideration of S. 1202, Energy Policy Modernization Act, with votes on or in relation to Lee Amendment No. 3032, and Franken Amendment No. 3115, at 2:30 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Armed Services: February 2, to hold hearings to examine the implementation of the decision to open all ground combat units to women, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

February 3, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine an independent perspective of United States defense policy in the Asia-Pacific region, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

February 3, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold closed hearings to examine counter-terrorism strategy, focusing on understanding ISIL, 2:30 p.m., SVC–217.

February 4, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the situation in Afghanistan, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on the Budget: February 3, to hold hearings to examine spending on unauthorized programs, 10 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: February 4, Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet, to hold hearings to examine ensuring intermodal Universal Service Fund support for rural America, 10:30 a.m., SR–253.


Committee on Finance: February 4, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Mary Katherine Wakefield, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, Andrew LaMont Eanes, of Kansas, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2019, and Elizabeth Ann Copeland, of Texas, and Vik Edwin Stoll, of Missouri, both to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: February 2, to receive a closed briefing on Russia, the European Union, and American foreign policy, 5 p.m., SVC–217.

February 3, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine strains on the European Union, focusing on implications for American foreign policy, 10 a.m., SD–419.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: February 2, to hold hearings to examine frontline response to terrorism in America, 10:15 a.m., SD–342.

February 3, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine Canada’s fast-track refugee plan, focusing on implications for United States national security, 10 a.m., SD–342.

February 4, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Beth F. Cobert, of California, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years, 10 a.m., SD–342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: February 3, business meeting to consider S. 1125, to authorize and implement the water rights compact among the Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, the State of Montana, and the United States, and S. 1983, to authorize the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians Water Rights Settlement; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the substandard quality of Indian health care in the Great Plains, 2:15 p.m., SH–216.

Committee on the Judiciary: February 2, to hold hearings to examine the future of the EB–5 regional center program, 10 a.m., SD–226.

February 2, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine occupational licensing and the state action doctrine, 2 p.m., SD–226.

February 3, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the need for transparency in the asbestos trusts, 10 a.m., SD–226.

February 4, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 247, to amend section 349 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to deem specified activities in support of terrorism as renunciation of United States nationality, S. 483, to improve enforcement efforts related to prescription drug diversion and abuse, and S. 524, to authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use, 10:30 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: February 2, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

February 4, Full Committee, to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, February 3, Subcommittee on Nutrition, hearing to review incentive programs aimed at increasing low-income families’ purchasing power for fruits and vegetables, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, February 3, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, oversight hearing on Assistance to Combat Wildlife Trafficking, 10:30 a.m., H–140 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, February 3, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Acquisition Reform: Starting Programs Well”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

February 3, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled “Military Treatment Facilities”, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

February 3, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled “Outside Views on Biodefense for the Department of Defense”, 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

February 4, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, hearing entitled “Naval Strike Fighters: Issues and Concerns”, 10:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, February 3, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Members’ Day”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.


Committee on Financial Services, February 3, Task Force to Investigate Terrorism Financing, hearing entitled “Trading with the Enemy: Trade-Based Money Laundering is the Growth Industry in Terror Finance”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, February 3, Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats, hearing entitled “Turkey: Political Trends in 2016”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, February 3, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Crisis of Confidence: Preventing Terrorist Infiltration through U.S. Refugee and Visa Programs”, 10 a.m., 311 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, February 3, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3624, the “Fraudulent Joinder Prevention Act”; and a resolution establishing the House Committee on the Judiciary Executive Overreach Task Force; and Budget Views and Estimates for FY 2017, 10:15 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

February 4, Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, hearing entitled “Another Surge of Illegal Immigrants Along the Southwest Border: Is this the Obama Administration’s New Normal?”, 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, February 3, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 482, the “Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2015”; H.R. 812, the “Indian Trust Asset Management Demonstration Project Act of 2015”; H.R. 890, to correct the boundaries of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Unit P16; H.R. 894, to extend the authorization of the Highlands Conservation Act; H.R. 1296, to amend the San Luis Rey Indian Water Rights Settlement Act to clarify certain settlement terms, and for other purposes; H.R. 1475, the “Korean War Veterans Memorial Wall of Remembrance Act of 2015”; H.R. 1815, the “Eastern Nevada Land Implementation Improvement Act”; H.R. 2273, to amend the Colorado River Storage Project Act to authorize the use of the active capacity of the Fontenelle Reservoir; H.R. 2538, the “Lytton Rancheria Homelands Act of 2015”; H.R. 2857, to facilitate the addition of park administration at the Coltsville National Historical Park, and for other purposes; H.R. 2880, the “Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Act of 2015”; H.R. 3004, to amend the
Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Act to extend the authorization for the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission; H.R. 3036, the “National 9/11 Memorial at the World Trade Center Act”; H.R. 3079, to take certain Federal land located in Tuolumne County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, and for other purposes; H.R. 3371, the “Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Boundary Adjustment Act of 2015”; H.R. 3342, to provide for stability of title to certain lands in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes; H.R. 3620, to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to provide access to certain vehicles serving residents of municipalities adjacent to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and for other purposes; and H.R. 4119, to authorize the exchange of certain land located in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Jackson County, Mississippi, between the National Park Service and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and for other purposes (continued), 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, February 3, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Examining Federal Administration of the Safe Drinking Water Act in Flint, Michigan”, 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

February 3, Subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets, hearing entitled “Securing Our Skies: Oversight of Aviation Credentials”, 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.


Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, February 3, Subcommittee on Space, hearing entitled “Charting a Course: Expert Perspectives on NASA’s Human Exploration Proposals”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

February 4, Subcommittee on Research and Technology; and Subcommittee on Oversight, joint hearing entitled “A Review of Recommendations for NSF Project Management Reform”, 9:30 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.


February 4, Full Committee, markup on Views and Estimates on the President’s FY 2017 Budget for the Small Business Administration, 9 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, February 3, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled “The Status of Coast Guard Cutter Acquisition Programs”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, February 3, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Lost Opportunities for Veterans: An Examination of VA’s Technology Transfer Program”, 10:30 a.m., 334 Cannon.


Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, February 4, Full Committee, business meeting on consideration of a Committee Report, 9 a.m., HVC–304. This meeting may close.
Résumé of Congressional Activity

SECOND SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

### DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 4 through January 31, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Days in session</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time in session</td>
<td>44 hrs., 21'</td>
<td>44 hrs., 42'</td>
<td>0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congressional Record:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pages of proceedings</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extensions of Remarks</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public bills enacted into law</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private bills enacted into law</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills in conference</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures passed, total</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate bills</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House bills</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate joint resolutions</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House joint resolutions</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate concurrent resolutions</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House concurrent resolutions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures reported, total</td>
<td>*8</td>
<td>*18</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate bills</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House bills</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate joint resolutions</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House joint resolutions</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate concurrent resolutions</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House concurrent resolutions</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special reports</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference reports</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures pending on calendar</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures introduced, total</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint resolutions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concurrent resolutions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quorum calls</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yea-and-nay votes</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recorded votes</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills vetoed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vetoes overridden</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total nominations carried over from the First Session</td>
<td>2,207</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total nominations received this Session</td>
<td>1,980</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total confirmed</td>
<td>3,182</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total unconfirmed</td>
<td>1,003</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total withdrawn</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total returned to the White House</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 4 through January 31, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Civilian nominations, totaling 195 (including 181 nominations carried over from the First Session)</th>
<th>Unconfirmed</th>
<th>Confirmed</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senate bills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House bills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>189</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate joint resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House joint resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>189</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate concurrent resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House concurrent resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>149</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>189</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures reported, total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>210</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate bills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House bills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate joint resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House joint resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate concurrent resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House concurrent resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special reports</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>210</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference reports</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures pending on calendar</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measures introduced, total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>183</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concurrent resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quorum calls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yea-and-nay votes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recorded votes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bills vetoed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vetoes overridden</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>190</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total nominations carried over from the First Session</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,207</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total nominations received this Session</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,980</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total confirmed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,182</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total unconfirmed</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,003</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total withdrawn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total returned to the White House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary

- Total nominations carried over from the First Session: 2,207
- Total nominations received this Session: 1,980
- Total confirmed: 3,182
- Total unconfirmed: 1,003
- Total withdrawn: 2
- Total returned to the White House: 0

The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

Executive nominations include nominations for:
- Civilian positions
- Military positions (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps)
- Positions in other agencies

Civilian nominations totaling 195 include:
- 181 nominations carried over from the First Session
- 14 nominations made in this session

Military nominations totaling 3,182 include:
- Army nominations totaling 1,959
  - 1,740 nominations carried over from the First Session
  - 229 nominations made in this session
- Navy nominations totaling 210
  - 5 nominations carried over from the First Session
  - 205 nominations made in this session
- Air Force nominations totaling 716
  - 76 nominations carried over from the First Session
  - 640 nominations made in this session
- Marine Corps nominations totaling 195
  - 181 nominations carried over from the First Session
  - 14 nominations made in this session
- Other nominations totaling 93
  - 5 nominations carried over from the First Session
  - 88 nominations made in this session

Other nominations totaling 319 include:
- 97 nominations carried over from the First Session
- 222 nominations made in this session

Civilian nominations, totaling 195 (including 181 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:
- Confirmed: 4
- Unconfirmed: 189
- Withdrawn: 2

Other Civilian nominations, totaling 319 (including 97 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:
- Confirmed: 716
- Unconfirmed: 93

Army nominations, totaling 1,959 (including 1,740 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:
- Confirmed: 1,749
- Unconfirmed: 210

Navy nominations, totaling 210 (including 5 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:
- Confirmed: 5
- Unconfirmed: 7

Air Force nominations, totaling 716 (including 76 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:
- Confirmed: 708
- Unconfirmed: 183

Marine Corps nominations, totaling 195 (including 181 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:
- Confirmed: 708
- Unconfirmed: 183
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Tuesday, February 2

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 11 a.m.), Senate will continue consideration of S. 2012, Energy Policy Modernization Act, with votes on or in relation to Lee Amendment No. 3052, and Franken Amendment No. 3115, at 2:30 p.m. (Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Tuesday, February 2

House Chamber


Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

Deutsch, Theodore E., Fla., E71, E77, E78
Gohmert, Louie, Tex., E85
Hunter, Duncan, Calif., E84
Jackson Lee, Sheila, Tex., E87
Johnson, Eddie Bernice, Tex., E77, E84
LaHood, Darin, Ill., E86
Lee, Barbara, Calif., E73, E74
Loftgren, Zoe, Calif., E87
Long, Billy, Mo., E82
Lujan Grisham, Michelle, N.M., E71, E79, E81
MacArthur, Thomas, N.J., E83
Marchant, Kenny, Tex., E79
Miller, Jeff, Fla., E73, E74, E75
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E81, E83
Olson, Pete, Tex., E85, E86, E97, E98, E97
Reed, Tom, N.Y., E74, E77
Renacci, James B., Ohio, E82
Rogers, Harold, Ky., E79
Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana, Fla., E83
Ryan, Tim, Ohio, E72
Sinema, Kyrsten, Ariz., E85
Smith, Jason, Mo., E75, E82
Vargas, Juan, Calif., E81
Veasey, Marc A., Tex., E84
Viscilosky, Peter J., Ind., E73
Webster, Daniel, Fla., E85
Wilson, Joe, S.C., E80
Yarmuth, John A., Ky., E71, E72
Young, Todd C., Ind., E81

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 Publishing 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 Publishing 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 Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.