

warn, and protect the United States from volcanic eruptions. The system would organize, modernize, standardize, and stabilize the operation of the Nation's five western volcanic observatories: Alaska, California, Cascades, Hawaiian, and Yellowstone Observatories. The bill calls for upgrading the existing networks, using geodetic capacities when appropriate, on currently monitored volcanoes and allowing new networks to be installed on some non-monitored volcanoes. The bill will also prompt USGS to help fund observatories to monitor another 20 high-priority volcanoes such as Mount Adams in Washington, North Sister Field in Oregon, Clear Lake in California, and Mount Spurr in Alaska; set up a national volcano watch office that will be operational at all hours; establish a national volcano data center; support research in volcano monitoring science and new technology development; encourage modernization of monitoring activities including "comprehensive application of emerging technologies, such as digital broadband seismometers, real-time continuous Global Positioning System receivers, satellite and airborne radar interferometry, acoustic pressure sensors and spectrometry to measure gas emissions" from lava chambers; authorize cooperative agreements to establish partnerships between the system and institutions of higher education and State agencies to collect data and coordinate volcanic information sharing and funding to pay for new work; and establish an advisory committee to assist with implementation.

This bill was proposed in 2009, 2011, and most recently in 2015. Last year it was the subject of a hearing before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The record of that hearing contains no opposition to this necessary legislation or the effort it would spur. I hope that this Congress will be the one that puts this bill on the President's desk and sees it enacted on public safety grounds alone, the need for this bill is compelling.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I have four requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to hold a meeting during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at 10 a.m. in room SDG-50. The Committee will hold a hearing on "A Look Ahead: Inspector General Recommendations for Improving Federal Agencies."

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at 10 a.m. in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled "Oversight: Modernizing our Nation's Infrastructure."

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building at 2:30 p.m. to conduct an oversight hearing on "Emergency Management in Indian Country: Improving FEMA's Federal-Tribal Relationship with Indian Tribes."

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 8, 2017, at 2:30 p.m.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2 p.m. tomorrow, the Chair lay before the Senate a certificate of appointment from the State of Alabama.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, February 9; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Price nomination postcloture; finally, that all time during morning business, recess, or adjournment of the Senate count postcloture on the Price nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CORNYN. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of the Senator from Oregon, Mr. WYDEN.

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

The Senator from Oregon.

NOMINATION OF TOM PRICE

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, as the Senate begins to consider the Price

nomination, I wanted to see if I could put a little perspective on the upcoming debate.

Focusing on bipartisanship has always been important to me. I know many of my colleagues on the Senate Finance Committee, on the Democratic side, share that view, and in 2009, the nominations of Democrats Tom Daschle, Tim Geithner, and Ron Kirk were all handled in a bipartisan way.

Issues came up in the vetting process in each of these cases, and both sides of the committee took the investigation seriously. Unfortunately, that has not been the case in 2017.

While Congressman PRICE served on the powerful Ways and Means Committee, he traded in health care stocks, pushed policies that helped his portfolio, and got special access to a promising stock deal.

I asked the congressman directly in his Finance Committee hearing whether he got a special deal. He said that he did not.

I don't think you could be much clearer than the following passage from a recent report by a Pulitzer prize-winning reporter at the Wall Street Journal. He wrote: "Rep. Tom Price got a privileged offer to buy a biomedical stock at a discount, the company's officials said, contrary to his congressional testimony this month."

I want to repeat that because I think it goes right to the heart of why Finance Committee Democrats feel that the effort to do the vetting necessary with respect to Congressman PRICE is not completed.

A Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter at the Wall Street Journal—I will just read it again—wrote: "Rep. Tom Price got a privileged offer to buy a biomedical stock at a discount, the company's officials said, contrary to his congressional testimony this month."

So, as I indicated, my Democratic colleagues and I on the committee said it was important to take more time to look into this issue. But the majority, when we said we needed to take more time to look at it, decided to look the other way. That is the first reason for concern on my side.

The second is how Congressman PRICE would manage Health and Human Services, a Department that is really all about people: services for seniors, services for the poor, for the disabled, for children, and for families. These are the powerful threads of our safety net. If the safety net is not there for those who have nowhere else to turn, those poor will suffer greatly.

Now, the debate on Congressman PRICE's nomination, in my view, is a referendum on the future of health care in America. In short, it is a debate about whether it makes sense for our country to go back to the dark days when health care worked only for the healthy and the wealthy.

Based on the public record, Medicare is a program Congressman PRICE doesn't believe in, and it guarantees services he doesn't believe seniors should have.