

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 1195, Highway Technical Corrections.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3105–S3170

Measures Introduced: Sixteen bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2876–2891, and S. Res. 519–522. **Pages S3144–45**

Measures Passed:

Farm Security and Rural Investment Act Extension: Senate passed H.R. 5813, to amend Public Law 110–196 to provide for a temporary extension of programs authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 beyond April 18, 2008, clearing the measure for the President.

Page S3105

Welcoming Pope Benedict XVI to the United States: Senate agreed to S. Res. 519, welcoming Pope Benedict XVI to the United States and recognizing the unique insights his moral and spiritual reflections bring to the world stage. **Pages S3105–06**

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users: By 88 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 108), Senate passed H.R. 1195, to amend the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users to make technical corrections, after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto:

Pages S3106–36

Adopted:

By 64 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. 105), Boxer Modified Amendment No. 4539 (to Amendment No. 4146), to call for a review by the Department of Justice of allegations of violations of Federal criminal law. **Pages S3106, S3118–19**

Boxer Amendment No. 4146, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S3106, S3121**

Withdrawn:

Coburn Amendment No. 4540 (to Amendment No. 4539), relative to the Coconut Road Investigation. **Pages S3106, S3110–11**

By 49 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 106), Coburn Amendment No. 4538 (to Amendment No. 4146), to create a bipartisan, bicameral special committee to investigate the improper insertion of an earmark for Coconut Road into the conference report of the 2005 highway bill after both chambers of Congress had approved identical versions of the conference report. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, be withdrawn).

Pages S3106, S3411–18, S3119

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 90 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 107), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on Boxer Amendment No. 4146 (listed above). **Pages S3119–20**

Authorizing Photograph in Senate Chamber: Senate agreed to S. Res. 521, authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Chamber of the United States Senate. **Page S3170**

Measures Considered:

Veterans' Benefits Enhancement Act—Agreement: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1315, to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance life insurance benefits for disabled veterans. **Page S3169**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, April 17, 2008, a vote on cloture will occur at 12 noon on Tuesday, April 22, 2008. **Page S3169**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, following a period of morning business, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of

the bill, and the time until 12 noon be equally divided and controlled between the two Leaders, or their designees. **Page S3169**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Administration's intent to add the Solomon Islands to the list of least-developed beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences program; which was referred to the Committee on Finance. (PM-44) **Page S3143**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Kelly Harrison Rankin, of Wyoming, to be United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming for the term of four years.

- 1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.
- 1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Page S3170

Messages from the House: **Page S3143**

Measures Referred: **Page S3144**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S3144**

Executive Communications: **Page S3144**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S3145-46**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S3146-64

Additional Statements: **Page S3143**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S3164-69**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S3169**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—108) **Pages S3118, S3119, S3119-20, S3122**

Recess: Senate convened at 12:45 p.m. and recessed at 6:40 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Friday, April 18, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3170.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FAA SAFETY AND MODERNIZATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) safety and modernization performance, after receiving testimony from Robert A. Sturgell, Acting Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration; and Calvin L. Scovel, III, Inspector General, Department of Transportation.

U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water and Power concluded a hearing to examine the United States Bureau of Reclamation, focusing on issues associated with aging water resource infrastructure, after receiving testimony from Senator Reid; Robert W. Johnson, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior; Mayor Todd Cutler, Fernley, Nevada; Major General Charles I. McGinnis, USA (Ret.), United States Army Corps of Engineers, Charlottesville, Virginia, on behalf of the National Research Council; Thomas F. Donnelly, National Water Resources Association, Arlington, Virginia; Wesley Randal Reed, St. Mary Rehabilitation Working Group, Chinook, Montana; and Tony Willardson, Western States Water Council, Midvale, Utah, on behalf of the Western Governors' Association (WGA).

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Deanna Tanner Okun, of Idaho, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, who was introduced by Senator Roberts, David Gustafson, of Virginia, Richard T. Morrison, of Virginia, and Elizabeth Crewson Paris, of the District of Columbia, who was introduced by Senator Grassley, each to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court, and Eric M. Thorson, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, and Edwin Eck, of Montana, to be a Member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board, both of the Department of the Treasury, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

FUSION CENTERS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Ad Hoc Subcommittee on State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration concluded a hearing to examine the national strategy for information sharing relating to fusion centers—collaborative efforts to detect, prevent, investigate, and respond to criminal terrorist activity, focusing on a recent progress report from federal, state, and local agencies, after receiving testimony from Eileen R. Larence, Director, Homeland Security and Justice Issues, Government Accountability Office; Vance E. Hitch, Chief Information Officer, Department of Justice; Jack Thomas Tomarchio, Deputy Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis; Captain Charles W. Rapp, Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC), Baltimore; Matthew Bettenhausen, California Governor's Office of Homeland Security, Sacramento; and Russell M. Porter, Iowa Department of Public Safety, Des Moines.

NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the National Indian Gaming Commission, after receiving testimony from Philip N. Hogen, Chairman, National Indian Gaming Commission; Delia Carlyle, Arizona Indian Gaming Association, Phoenix, on behalf of the Ak-Chin Indian Community Council; J.R. Matthews, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Quapaw, Oklahoma; Mark Van Norman, National Indian Gaming Association, Washington, D.C.; Brian Patterson, United

South and Eastern Tribes, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee; Kurt Luger, Great Plains Indian Gaming Association, Bismarck, North Dakota; and Kathryn R.L. Rand and Steven Light, both of the University of North Dakota Institute for the Study of Tribal Gaming Law and Policy, Grand Forks.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 28 public bills, H.R. 5828–5855; and 9 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 330–331; and H. Res. 1117–1123 were introduced. **Pages H2485–86**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2487–88**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3513, to amend the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984 to designate the Copper Salmon Wilderness and to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the North and South Forks of the Elk River in the State of Oregon as wild or scenic rivers, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–591);

H.R. 831, to provide for the conveyance of certain Forest Service land to the city of Coffman Cove, Alaska, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–592);

H.R. 3734, to rename the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in the State of Idaho as the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in honor of the late Morley Nelson, an international authority on birds of prey, who was instrumental in the establishment of this National Conservation Area (H. Rept. 110–593); and

H.R. 3928, to require certain large government contractors that receive more than 80 percent of their annual gross revenue from Federal contracts to disclose the names and salaries of their most highly compensated officers, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–594). **Page H2485**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Hoyer to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2445**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the guest Chaplain, Dr. Alan N. Keiran, Chief of Staff, Office of the Senate Chaplain. **Page H2445**

Recess: The House recessed at 8:34 a.m. and reconvened at 10:32 a.m. **Pages H2445, H2452**

Reception in the House Chamber to Receive Former Members of Congress: The House recessed to receive the United States Association of Former Members of Congress in the House Chamber. Later, agreed to the Braley motion that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the Record. **Pages H2445–52**

Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008: The House passed H.R. 5715, to ensure continued availability of access to the Federal student loan program for students and families, by a ye-a-and-nay vote of 383 yeas to 27 nays, Roll No. 204. Consideration of the measure began on Wednesday, April 16th. **Pages H2456–68**

Accepted:

Petri amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 110–590), modified by unanimous consent, that requires the Secretary of Education to review and revise as necessary the regulations concerning prohibited guaranty agency inducements to eligible lenders; **Pages H2463–64**

Castle amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 110–590) that requires the General Accountability Office to conduct a study of the impact of raising loan limits on (1) tuition, fees, and room and board at institutions of higher education; and (2) private loan borrowing for attendance at institutions of higher education; **Pages H2464–65**

Castor amendment (No. 4 printed in part B of H. Rept. 110–590) that temporarily classifies medical

bill payment delinquencies of up to 180 days an extenuating circumstance which shall not interfere with parents' ability to receive PLUS loans for their children's tuition; and

Pages H2465–66

George Miller (CA) manager's amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 110–590) that makes technical and conforming changes; states that loan limit increases available under this Act are available only to students meeting the requirements of section 484(a) of the HEA; targets the loan limit increases to those students and families in most need; in regard to school-wide lender-of-last-resort eligibility, specifies that the Secretary of Education shall determine whether a school qualifies and provides criteria for the Secretary to consider in making the determination; specifies that funds received by lenders from loan sales be used to originate new loans; clarifies that the Secretary has the authority to enter into forward commitments to purchase new loans; and clarifies that, at the discretion of the Secretary, a loan purchased by the Secretary may continue to be serviced by the current lender (by a recorded vote of 413 ayes with none voting "no", Roll No. 203).

Pages H2466–67

H. Res. 1107, the rule providing for consideration of the bill, was agreed to on Wednesday, April 16th.

Recess: The House recessed at 11:45 a.m. and reconvened at 1:21 p.m.

Page H2466

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in memory of Lou Costantino, an employee of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms.

Page H2468

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22nd for morning hour debate.

Pages H2469, H2473

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, April 23rd.

Page H2473

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he provided notification of his intent to add the Solomon Islands to the list of least-developed beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program—referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered printed (H. Doc. 110–105).

Page H2484

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H2468.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2466–67, H2467. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 8:30 a.m. and adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MILITARY MORALE-WELFARE-RECREATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing on Military Resale and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) overview. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Leslye A. Arsht, Deputy Under Secretary, Military Community and Family Policy; MG John A. Macdonald, USA, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Installation Management Command and Commander, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command; RADM Robert J. Bianchi, USN, Commander, Navy Exchange Service Command; BG Keith L. Thurgood, USAR, Commander, Army and Air Force Exchange Service; Timothy R. Larsen, Director, Personal and Family Readiness Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; Richard Page, Acting Director, Defense Commissary Agency; John Baker, Fleet and Family Readiness Program Director, Navy Installations Command; and Arthur J. Myers, Director of Services, Headquarters, U.S. Air Force.

MISSILE DEFENSE PROGRAMS BUDGET

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2009 National Defense Authorization Budget Request for Missile Defense Program. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: John J. Young, Jr., Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics; Charles E. McQueary, Director, Operational Test and Evaluation; LTG Henry A. Obering, III, USAF, Director, Missile Defense Agency; and LTG Kevin T. Campbell, USA, Commanding General, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit held a hearing on H.R. 5244, Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights. Testimony was heard from Senators Levin and Wyden; Martin J. Gruenberg, Vice Chairman, FDIC; the following officials of the Department of the Treasury: Julie L. Williams, Chief Counsel and First Senior Deputy Comptroller; and John Bowman, General Counsel, Office of Thrift Supervision; and Sandra Braunstein, Director, Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System; and public witnesses.

PREVENTING NUCLEAR IRAN

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia and the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade held a joint hearing on *Between Feckless and Reckless: U.S. Policy Options to Prevent a Nuclear Iran*. Testimony was heard from Jeffrey Feltman, Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau for Near Eastern Affairs, Department of State; and Daniel Glaser, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes, Department of the Treasury.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security held a hearing on the following bills: H.R. 5464, A Child is Missing Alert and Recovery Center Act; H.R. 2352, School Safety Enhancements Act of 2007; H.R. 1783, Elder Justice Act, and H.R. 5352, Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008. Testimony was heard from Representatives Emanuel, Sestak, Rothman and Klein of Florida; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Ordered reported the following bills: H.R. 5541, amended, Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act; H.R. 3522, to ratify a conveyance of a portion of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation to Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, pursuant to the settlement of litigation between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and Rio Arriba County, State of New Mexico, to authorize issuance of a patent for said lands, and to change the exterior boundary of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation accordingly, and for other purposes; S. 2457, To provide for extensions of leases of certain land by Mashantucket Pequot (Western Tribe); H.R. 1575, amended, Burt Lake Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Reaffirmation Act; and H.R. 3490, amended, Tuolumne Me-Wuk Land Transfer Act of 2007.

MEAT INDUSTRY SAFETY/TRANSPARENCY

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Domestic Policy held a hearing on *After the Beef Recall: Exploring Greater Transparency in the Meat Industry*. Testimony was heard from Richard Raymond, Under Secretary, Food Safety, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA; Lisa Shames, Director, Natural Resources and the Environment, GAO; and public witnesses.

PUBLIC LANDS USE

Committee on Small Business: Held a hearing on *Maintaining Public Lands for Hunting, Fishing, Ranch-*

ing and Small Businesses. Testimony was heard from C. Stephen Allred, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

REAUTHORIZING—SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION AND SMALL BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAMS

Committee on Small Business: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 5819.SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act.

GREENING WASHINGTON AND THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management held a hearing on *First in a Series: Greening Washington and the National Capital Region*. Testimony was heard from David Winstead, Commissioner, Public Building Service, GSA; George Hawkins, Director, Department of the Environment, District of Columbia; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings**ARMENIA AND MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT**

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine Armenia and the United States, focusing on Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) negotiations on Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia's qualifications for assistance from the Millennium Challenge Account, after receiving testimony from Matthew Bryza, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs; Vigen Sargsian, Assistant to the President of the Republic of Armenia, Yerevan, Armenia; and Arman Grigorian, Williamsburg, Virginia.

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY,
APRIL 18, 2008**

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No committee hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Friday, April 18

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, April 18

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will be in a period of morning business.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: The House will meet in pro forma session at 9 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Abercrombie, Neil, Hawaii, E644
 Akin, W. Todd, Mo., E648
 Baca, Joe, Calif., E646
 Bachmann, Michele, Minn., E642
 Bishop, Rob, Utah, E654
 Boehner, John A., Ohio, E643
 Boyd, Allen, Fla., E647
 Boyda, Nancy E., Kans., E644
 Brady, Kevin, Tex., E643
 Carson, André, Ind., E650
 Castle, Michael N., Del., E641, E643
 Chandler, Ben, Ky., E646
 Conyers, John, Jr., Mich., E653
 Costello, Jerry F., Ill., E642
 Courtney, Joe, Conn., E652
 Duncan, John J., Jr., Tenn., E645
 Eshoo, Anna G., Calif., E651

Farr, Sam, Calif., E649
 Fossella, Vito, N.Y., E658
 Gordon, Bart, Tenn., E641
 Granger, Kay, Tex., E642, E649
 Graves, Sam, Mo., E645, E657
 Honda, Michael M., Calif., E654
 Hoyer, Steny H., Md., E653
 Issa, Darrell E., Calif., E656
 Jackson-Lee, Sheila, Tex., E650
 Johnson, Sam, Tex., E647
 Kirk, Mark Steven, Ill., E643
 Klein, Ron, Fla., E642
 Knollenberg, Joe, Mich., E652
 Kucinich, Dennis J., Ohio, E657
 LaHood, Ray, Ill., E648
 Larsen, Rick, Wash., E646, E658
 Latta, Robert E., Ohio, E653
 Lee, Barbara, Calif., E649, E650
 Lipinski, Daniel, Ill., E648

McCotter, Thaddeus G., Mich., E659
 Mahoney, Tim, Fla., E654
 Miller, George, Calif., E652
 Pastor, Ed, Ariz., E651
 Perlmutter, Ed, Colo., E642, E644, E646, E648, E648,
 E650, E652, E653, E657, E658
 Poe, Ted, Tex., E642
 Porter, Jon C., Nev., E658
 Reichert, David G., Wash., E641, E645, E654, E656
 Ross, Mike, Ark., E651
 Slaughter, Louise McIntosh, N.Y., E649
 Space, Zachary T., Ohio, E644, E646, E648, E649, E649,
 E651, E654, E657, E659
 Tanner, John S., Tenn., E658
 Wamp, Zach, Tenn., E645
 Watson, Diane E., Calif., E656
 Westmoreland, Lynn A., E659
 Wittman, Robert J., Va., E654



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